

هنا من الوطن

Today's Weather

Table with 2 columns: Overnight, Daytime. Rows for Low, High, Valley.

High temperatures: Amman 26, Aqaba 28. Set tonight: 6:35 p.m. Sunrise tomorrow: 5:45 a.m.

Number 1665

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Turkish jetliner nabbed in plan to free 47 in jail

AMMAN, Bulgaria, May 24 (A.P.) — Hijackers holding a Turkish airliner at a Black Sea airport today threatened to kill five captives aboard it if 47 prisoners were not freed from Turkish jails, the Bulgarian agency BTA said.

Hijackers set a deadline of 2 p.m. today (2300 GMT) for the release of the agency... The hijackers said if their demands were not met by 10 a.m. tomorrow, they would blow up the DC-9 aircraft and all still aboard it.

Begin: No time limit on Habib

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, May 24 (Agencies) — Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin said today he was giving the United States additional time to solve the Syrian-Israeli missile crisis and setting no deadlines. He also revealed an Israeli guarantee to repulse Lebanese rightist forces against Syria.

Habib was staying in occupied Jerusalem, awaiting an answer from Saudi Arabia to a proposal Mr. Habib heard in Beirut two days earlier. The content of the proposal was not revealed.

who was killed on Nov. 13, 1966 while fighting off an Israeli air attack on Al Samu' in Hebron Governorate. At the outset of the celebration, the air base commander made a speech in tribute to the country's martyrs.



Young Prince Ali looks particularly enthusiastic Sunday as His Majesty King Hussein and other dignitaries preside at the opening of a new air base.

Hussein opens air base

AMMAN, May 24 (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein today inaugurated a new air base as part of the nation's Independence and Army Day celebrations.

The base was named after the air force pilot Muwaffaq Al Salt, who was killed on Nov. 13, 1966 while fighting off an Israeli air attack on Al Samu' in Hebron Governorate.

The name chosen for the base reflects King Hussein's appreciation of the martyrs of the armed forces, he said.

Police storm bank, free 70 hostages

BARCELONA, Spain, May 24 (A.P.) — Police stormed the besieged Central Bank of Barcelona tonight in a hail of gunfire that freed about 70 hostages and killed one of the gunmen who had held them captive for 36 hours, police said.

Dozens of hostages dashed to freedom as police swarmed over the bank building. Special anti-terrorist units penetrated the bank about one hour after beginning the assault amid counter-fire from the gunmen and cries from hostages not to shoot.

Police captured eight of the gunmen who tried to flee with hostages, witnesses said. The gunman was slain near the end of the assault, police said.

no mention of the military men and the gunmen's leader told the state radio he didn't want to talk about Col. Tejero.

Government officials earlier today declined to confirm persistent press reports that the bank gunmen included some of the 288 Civil Guards who assaulted parliament. The gunmen, who donned hoods immediately after entering the bank, acted in a military manner, released hostages said, and called each other by numbers from 1 to 24 instead of using any names.

A bomb squad followed police into the bank to defuse dynamite charges apparently laid by the gunmen. Backing off earlier today from their original demands for the release of four military men jailed following February's coup attempt and repeated threats to kill their captives, the gunmen released 79 of their hostages in the second day of the siege.

The gunmen themselves acknowledged today their hopes of escape were dimming, telling state radio by telephone, "The operation has failed" and letting two of their announced deadlines to begin killing the hostages slip by without mention.

Earlier in the day, they let loose a submachine-gun burst at a parliamentary armoured car when it

Ibn Shaker at reception

AMMAN, May 24 (Petra) — The Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces Lt. Gen. Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker gave a reception at the Al Hussein Youth City this evening on the occasion of Independence and Army Day.

members of the diplomatic corps and military attaches attended.

In Irbid, Yarmouk University in cooperation with the armed forces organized a big campus rally this evening. University President Dr. Adnan Badwan made a speech hailing the martyrs who sacrificed their lives in defence of the homeland.

Abuhatzzeira acquitted, but not yet cleared

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, May 24 (A.P.) — An Israeli court here today cleared Religious Affairs Minister Aharon Abuhatzzeira of bribery charges after a four-month trial that shook the Israeli political establishment.

"suspicion, even a heavy suspicion, as to the culpability of Abuhatzzeira and Gabbai."

But Mr. Israel Gottlieb, the state's witness on whom police based their case, gave unclear and unstable testimony and it contains numerous lies," President Landau said, and therefore he had to give the defendants the benefit of the doubt.

As the president of the three-judge district court was reading the verdict, new charges were being filed in a Tel Aviv court accusing Mr. Abuhatzzeira of abusing funds from a state-supported scholarship foundation he used to manage. No date was set for the new trial.

The court cleared Mr. Abuhatzzeira and his aide, Mr. Moshe Gabbai, of taking roughly \$19,000 in bribes in return for approving allocations of taxpayers' money for religious institutions.

Diamond dealer Shmuel Daskel and Rabbi Amram Korach, co-defendants with Mr. Abuhatzzeira, were acquitted of charges that they paid the bribes.

If so, said the court president, it showed "a most degraded level of public morality on his (Mr. Abuhatzzeira's) part and it is the court's duty to protest it."

The case focused on two counts in which Mr. Abuhatzzeira was accused of taking bribes from Mr. Daskel and Rabbi Korach, with Mr. Gottlieb acting as go-between, in return for approving the appropriation of state funds to Jewish seminaries managed by Mr. Daskel and Rabbi Korach in the Tel Aviv suburb of Bnei Braq.

The fund received roughly \$27,000 from the interior ministry between 1974 and 1977, and Mr. Abuhatzzeira and Mr. Gabbai drew from it an unspecified amount in 25 cheques, the charge-sheet said. One cheque was used to pay for new shutters in Mr. Abuhatzzeira's house, it added.

Bobby Unser wins at Indy

INDIANAPOLIS, Indiana, May 24 (A.P.) — Bobby Unser, driving almost effortlessly through a crash-marred Indianapolis 500, cruised to the checkered flag ahead of Mario Andretti today and matched his younger brother Al with his third triumph in the world's richest automobile race.

Gordon Johncock. Defending champion Johnny Rutherford, one of the earlier victims of car trouble, wound up 32nd. Unser, who started from the pole position, said, "That's what happens when you have a good car."

Syria will pull back its forces

Beirut asks, Arafat aide says

May 24 (R) — A Palestinian said in an interview today that Syria would pull back its troops from part of Lebanon only if asked to do so by the Lebanese president and not by the Syrian government.

weekly Monday Morning that Syrian President Hafez Al Assad made the statement to special U.S. Middle East envoy Philip Habib.

turn for an Israeli commitment not to fly over the Bekaa and to limit air activities over south Lebanon to reconnaissance flights.

King cables Mitterrand AMMAN, May 24 (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein today sent a cable of good wishes to French President Francois Mitterrand on his assumption of duties as President of France.

Pope quotes St. Paul to say he is happy to have suffered

May 24 (R) — Pope John Paul, his voice still weak and hoarse, said today that he was happy that he had suffered when he was tried to kill him on May 13.

Mr. Khalaf was among a PLO delegation which had talks with President Assad last week. He told the newspaper that Mr. Assad had suggested to Mr. Assad that rightist Lebanese militias pull out of the Bekaa Valley city of Zahle and the Syrians evacuate the nearby Sannin heights in return for an Israeli commitment not to fly over the Bekaa and to limit air activities over south Lebanon to reconnaissance flights.

The King wished the French people further progress under the new president and expressed hope that France will "pursue its positive role in trying to establish a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East."

recording his address, the Pope celebrated mass in the outside his room for doctors and nurses who had been with him, the Vatican spokesman said.

Mr. Khalaf said he had information that Lebanese President Elias Sarkis supported the presence of the Syrian missiles in the Bekaa for defensive purposes and would not ask for their withdrawal.

PARIS, May 24 (R) — France's new Socialist president, Mr. Francois Mitterrand, and West German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt agreed today that the West should work to restore military balance in Europe while pursuing arms control talks with Moscow.

released the man yesterday although they were concerned to investigate the case, the spokesman said.

He also said Syria and Libya had offered to supply Lebanon with missiles to link up with the Syrian SAMs in the Bekaa in a network. But he did not know whether Lebanon would accept the offer.

The agreement, reported by well-informed West German sources, was the major outcome of a three and a half hour meeting between the two leaders—Mr. Mitterrand's first emergence onto the international diplomatic scene since his May 10 election victory.

Germanys have strenuously rejected the charge and said lowered up every tip received about Agca, without ever any trace of him among the huge Turkish community in Istanbul.

Mr. Schmidt, who is facing strong opposition within his ruling Social Democratic Party on the issue, has agreed that some of the missiles should be stationed in West Germany and during his election campaign Mr. Mitterrand expressed understanding for this decision.

Today's meeting had been keenly awaited for any indication of joint decisions on economic issues, particularly the future of the French franc which has been under strong pressure since Mr. Mitterrand's electoral triumph over former president Valery Giscard d'Estaing.

Germanys have strenuously rejected the charge and said lowered up every tip received about Agca, without ever any trace of him among the huge Turkish community in Istanbul.

Mr. Schmidt, who had a close working relationship with Mr. Giscard d'Estaing but very little previous contact with Mr. Mitterrand, said he was convinced France and West Germany "will continue to work together in the difficult years that lie ahead."

NATIONAL

To be held in Amman next Monday

Qaddouri unveils agenda for CAEU council session

AMMAN, May 24 (Petra) — The secretary general of the Council of Arab Economic Unity (CAEU), Dr. Fakhri Qaddouri, said today the 37th council session will be held in Amman on June 1.



Dr. Fakhri Qaddouri, secretary general of the Council of Arab Economic Unity (foreground left), talks to reporters during a press conference in Amman Sunday.

headquarters of the council's general secretariat, Dr. Qaddouri said that the session will be of particular significance "because it will be the first to be held after the approval of economic documents on joint Arab economic action by the

11th Arab summit conference" recently held in Amman.

He said the summit had entrusted the council with formulating a joint Arab plan in cooperation with the Arab League and other Arab organisations "to translate these documents into practical terms."

Furthermore, the session follows the approval by the council's of its five-year plan (1981-85), he added.

Dr. Qaddouri stressed the "significance" of the topics which will be discussed in the session, saying that these include a report by the CAEU secretary general which falls into two parts.

The first part deals with "following up the implementation of resolutions adopted at the council's last session" and the general secretariat's efforts to implement a CAEU five-year working plan and an annual working programme," he said.

The second part deals with the "economic indicators to development in the Arab homeland," in addition to "reviewing and analysing the most important economic developments in joint Arab action, namely the resolutions of the 11th Arab summit," he added.

Dr. Qaddouri said that among the topics included in the agenda of the session is the establishment of an Arab international company for land transport, the economic feasibility study and company's bye-laws of which has been approved by a technical committee of the Arab states' delegates.

The agenda also includes a plan for an Arab stamp printing press and a collective agreement embracing the basic provisions of qualitative Arab federations, he said.

The session will also discuss a report by the customs committee and a draft agreement on scientific and technical cooperation with the European Economic Community and Latin America.



Her Highness Princess Alia chats with kindergarteners during the opening Sunday of an art exhibition in Tafelah.

Alia opens kindergarteners' art show

AMMAN, May 24 (Petra) — Her Highness Princess Alia opened today the first ever painting exhibition by kindergarteners, organised by the Tafelah Children's Society. The five-day exhibition includes 250 paintings which depict the envi-

ronment, and deal with sociological, patriotic and artistic themes. Attending the opening ceremony were kindergarten teachers, and large crowd of art lovers.

Seminar on greenhouses ends

AMMAN, May 24 (Petra) — An agricultural seminar on the growth of crops in green-house conditions organised by the Faculty of Agriculture at the University of Jor-

dan, ended today. The two-day seminar discussed 23 research papers on the use of fertiliser, irrigation and the economic aspects of greenhouse agriculture.

The seminar also agreed on the necessity of such seminars, of further experimentation under greenhouse conditions, and to prepare research papers on environmental pollution, if any caused by them.

Attending the seminar were representatives from the Farmers Union, the Ministry of Education, the Royal Scientific Society, the

Ministry of Agriculture, the National Resources Authority, the Jordan Valley Authority, the Cooperatives Organisation and the Agricultural Engineers Association.

The participants also recommended the expansion of experiments on the economics of greenhouse agriculture.

They also stressed the need to conduct studies on the local and external marketing of vegetables.

The seminar recommended the establishment of a laboratory to analyse the effects of insecticides on the crops.

Acidima chief ends tour, returns with contracts

AMMAN, May 24 (Petra) — The director general of the Arab company for Industrial Pharmaceuticals and Medical Supplies (Acidima) Dr. Hashem Al Dhaher returned to Amman yesterday following a tour of Syria, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait.

In Syria, Dr. Dhaher signed an agreement with the Syrian government for the establishment of a company to manufacture medical glass containers and in Riyadh, he held talks with Acidima's board chairman on the board's agenda which will be discussed at a meeting in Amman on June 15.

Dr. Dhaher said that in Kuwait he discussed with the Arab Fund for Social and Economic Development the possibility of financing a projected Arab firm for the manufacture of insecticides and also the financing of the Syria-based glass containers factory, Acidima, affiliated to the Council of Arab Economic Unity, was established in 1976 and its capital now amounts to 60 million Kuwaiti dinars, shared by 15 Arab states.

King hails Numeiri, Viola

AMMAN, May 24 (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein today sent a cable of good wishes to Sudanese President Jaafar Numeiri on the anniversary of the May 25th revolution in Sudan. In his cable, King Hussein expressed his wish for more progress for the Sudanese people. King Hussein also sent a cable of good wishes to Argentine President Roberto Viola on the occasion of his country's independence day.

WHAT'S GOING ON

Exhibitions

*The University of Jordan Alumni Club marks Independence Day with an exhibition celebrating the Jordanian heritage. The exhibition opens to members and their friends at 6:30 p.m., at the club premises.

*The British Council presents sculpture from its permanent collection at the Jordan National Gallery of Fine Arts. The exhibition is open to the public from 10 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. and 3-6 p.m., and remains open daily except Tuesday.

*The French Cultural Centre presents an exhibition of photographs by members of the centre's photography club. The exhibition is open to the public at the centre's hall in Jabal Luw-eidbeh.

*The British Council presents "Recent Prints from Britain", an exhibition of original prints by Hockney, Kitzage, Fassolas and many others. The exhibition, held previously at the council in Amman, is on display in the foyer of Alcazar Hotel in Aqaba.

Spring Festival

*The Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities presents the Spring Festival of art, which was celebrated in Aqaba last month, at the Alia Art Gallery in Shmeisani.

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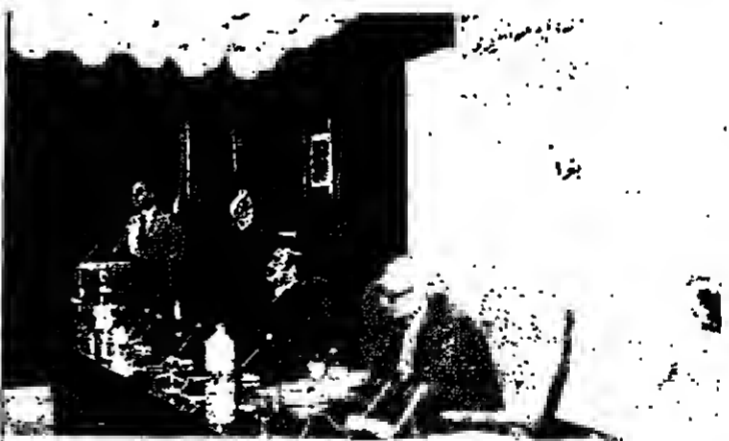
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Amman meeting to discuss raising medical standards

AMMAN, May 24 (Petra) — The Higher Arab Council for Medical Specialisation opened a four-day meeting at Yarmouk University Liaison Office today to review reports on hospitals in the member countries that have training facilities where training courses in the different fields of medical specialisation can be organised.

Taking part in the meeting are delegates representing Jordan, Syria, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, North Yemen, Qatar, Libya, Lebanon, the United Arab Emirates, Sudan, Bahrain, Tunisia and Iraq. Several council members spoke at the first session including the Syrian delegate who hailed the project as being one of the most significant steps aimed at raising the medical standard in the Arab World.



The opening session in Amman Sunday of a four-day meeting of the Higher Arab Council for Medical Specialisations.

Zaben to Riyadh to sign Arabsat contract today



Dr. Mohammad Addoub Al Zaben.

AMMAN, May 24 (J.T.) — Minister of Communications Mohammad Addoub Al Zaben left for Riyadh today to attend a ceremony, which will be held there tomorrow, for signing an agreement for awarding a tender to the French firm Aerospatiale to carry out the Arabsat project.

The tender was awarded to the French firm by a decision of the Arab Satellite Communication Organisation after meeting held in Amman earlier this month.

Dr. Zaben is the president of Arabsat which comprises Arab communications ministers.

NATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

AMMAN, May 24 (Petra) — A seminar on the Middle East's political and economic issues held another session at the University of Jordan today during which four participants made speeches. These included Dr. Muhammad Sa'id Nabulsi, Central Bank governor, whose lecture centred on the Palestine problem and its relation to Arab oil wealth and financial power. Dr. Kamel Abu Jaber from the University of Jordan spoke about Jordan's status in the Arab political arena. The week-long seminar was opened yesterday by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan.

AMMAN, May 24 (Petra) — Nearly 800,000 students in the primary, preparatory and secondary levels completed their end-of-year exams today. Final results will be announced soon. Ministry of Education sources said. Meanwhile preparations have been completed for holding the Tawjihi examinations for secondary school leavers in Jordan. The exams are scheduled to start on May 27.

AMMAN, May 24 (J.T.) — Two people were killed and 10 others were injured in a total of 16 road accidents in Jordan in the past 24 hours, the Public Security Directorate announced today. It also reported a fire in a pharmacy in the Jerash refugee camp which burnt down the entire stock. The fire started in a gas-operated refrigerator in the pharmacy. A night watchman employed to guard a school in Amman complained to the police yesterday that two burglars had entered the school building at night. When the watchman tried to seize them, they beat him up and pointed a gun at him. The two men were caught later because the watchman was able to identify them. The burglars admitted they were trying to steal the canteen's refrigerator.

AMMAN, May 24 (Petra) — A delegation of Muslim ulema from Pakistan arrives here tomorrow for a visit to Jordan expected to last several days. The delegation will meet with Islamic Chief Justice Sheikh Ibrahim Al Qattan to discuss means of boosting cooperation between Jordan and Pakistan in religious affairs.

AMMAN, May 24 (Petra) — A delegation of the Jordanian Housewives Association leaves for Baghdad tomorrow for a visit to Iraq expected to last several days at the invitation of Mrs. Manal Yunis, president of the General Federation of Iraqi Women. During the visit, the delegation members will look into the activities of the Iraqi federation.

AMMAN, May 24 (Petra) — The third and last season of excavation at the Umayyad castle of Baharneh in the Jordanian Badia region has been completed, the Department of Antiquities announced today. It said that the digs, conducted jointly by teams from the department and the American Centre of Oriental Research, were aimed at uncovering more historical background of the castle. A department spokesman said that the Agha Khan Fund for Islamic Architecture had financed the excavations.

AMMAN, May 24 (Petra) — The Jordanian Engineers Association will participate in an international conference on roads to be held in Stockholm early next month. The association will be represented at the conference by Mr. Sa'id Bino, director of the Water Supply Corporation, who will submit to the conference a research study on planning land transport. Mr. Bino, who will leave for the Swedish capital on Friday, said that nearly 3000 industrialists, engineers and researchers will take part in the conference which will discuss methods for the construction, maintenance, financing and administration of roads. The conference is organised once every four years.

AMMAN, May 24 (Petra) — The deputy director general of the Royal Scientific Society, Dr. Fakhreddin Al Dhagistani left today for Italy to take part in a seminar, on the difficulties of applying renewable energy, which will start in Como tomorrow. The week-long seminar will discuss a number of research papers and studies about exploiting energy and applying solar energy in development. Dr. Dhagistani will offer a working paper titled "the possibilities of renewable energy in the Arab states." Taking part in this seminar are representatives from the United Nations, the USA, France, Canada and the European Economic Community.

SALT, May 24 (Petra) — A follow-up course for local leaders started today in 'Allan in Al Balqa governorate. The course, in which 35 leaders from both public and private sectors took part, was organised by Princess Rahma Social Community Centre in cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture. It aims to raise the level of agricultural production in the area, and to update the agricultural knowledge of the participants. The programme of the seminar includes lectures, field visits to the agricultural station at Deir Alla and the Al Hussein agricultural nursery, and an open meeting with the minister of agriculture and the minister of social development next Thursday.

IRBID, May 24 (Petra) — Twenty five classrooms will be built at a cost of JD 30,000 for a total of 300 students in the rural areas of north Jerash during the next two months. The Soof municipality further purchased 15 dunums for new school buildings during next month.

AMMAN STOCK EXCHANGE REPORT

Name of Company	Par Value	Number Traded	High	Low	Closing Price
Islamic Bank 50%	JD 1,000	2,101	1,600	1,600	1,600
Jordan-Kuwait Bank	JD 1,000	1,900	2,260	2,240	2,260
Jordan-Gulf Bank	JD 1,000	5,572	1,550	1,540	1,540
Housing Bank	JD 1,000	100	2,160	2,160	2,160
Arab Investment Bank	JD 1,000	1,000	1,660	1,660	1,660
Industrial Development Bank	JD 1,000	100	1,380	1,380	1,380
Cairo Amman Bank	JD 5,000	9,939	14,900	14,900	14,900
Arab Bank Co. Ltd.	JD 1,000	1,100	13,000	13,000	13,000
Arab Financial Corporation (Jordan) 80%	JD 10,000	330	14,100	14,000	14,100
Petra Bank	JD 10,000	50	21,000	21,000	21,000
Jordan Securities Co.	JD 10,000	582	17,200	17,200	17,200
Jordan Insurance Co.	JD 1,000	1,150	14,910	14,500	14,910
General Insurance Co.	JD 1,000	1,960	1,720	1,720	1,720
Arabian Seas Insurance Co.	JD 5,000	350	11,650	11,600	11,650
Jordan Electricity Co.	JD 1,000	824	2,040	2,040	2,040
Arabian International Hotels Co.	JD 1,000	22,586	1,320	1,260	1,270
Arabian Investment and International Trading Co.	JD 1,000	42,665	1,500	1,430	1,430
International Contracting and Investments Co.	JD 1,000	1,800	0,860	0,850	0,860
Dar Al Sha'h for Press, Publications and Distribution	JD 1,000	1,450	0,950	0,930	0,930
Garage Owners Federation Office Co.	JD 1,000	50	13,100	13,100	13,100
Arab Development and Investments Co.	JD 2,000	340	1,580	1,580	1,580
General Mining Co.	JD 1,000	2,500	1,820	1,820	1,820
Arab Aluminium Industries Co.	JD 1,000	3,300	1,470	1,450	1,450
Industrial, Commercial and Agricultural Co.	JD 1,000	7,712	3,850	3,850	3,850
Arab Chemical Detergents Industries Co.	JD 1,000	50	4,770	4,770	4,770
National Steel Industries	JD 1,000	3,260	2,300	2,280	2,290
Dar Al Dawa' Development and Investment Co.	JD 1,000	3,136	3,200	3,200	3,200
Jordan Worsteds Mills Co.	JD 1,000	259	3,550	3,550	3,550
Jordan Ceramics Industries Co.	JD 1,000	6,300	1,120	1,120	1,120
Jordan Paper and Cardboard Factories Co.	JD 1,000	177	1,700	1,700	1,700
Jordan Phosphate Mines Co.	JD 1,000	450	3,710	3,710	3,710
Jordan Lime and Silicate Brick Industries Co.	JD 5,000	1,000	6,010	6,000	6,000
Arab Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Co.	JD 5,000	586	30,000	29,900	29,900
Jordan Petroleum Refining Co.	JD 5,000	5,376	8,490	8,480	8,480
Jordan Cement Factories Co.	JD 10,000	6	19,100	19,100	19,100
Jordan Glass Factories Co.	JD 1,000	2,450	0,920	0,910	0,920

Total volume of shares traded on Sunday, May 24, 1981: JD 588,422
Total number of shares traded: 130,736

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هاتفنا عند الحاجة

هذا من الجبل

Hand-made furniture for Jordan's homes

NOTE: This is the ninth in a series of articles about crafts in Jordan.

Text and photos
By Mohammad Ayish
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — "I can remember, some 40 years back, I used to braid grass and elastic of moloukhia just for a hobby — which developed into a profitable business started using bamboo sticks to make baskets in Palestine," says Mr. Fahmak, 53, who runs a bamboo workshop with his son Khaled, 29, in Jabal Hussein.



Mr. Fahmak (left) and his son Khaled work on a bamboo furniture piece at their Jabal Hussein workshop.

for bamboo crafts was my talent for singing, and to demonstrate at said Mr. Fahmak, is a family of 10 with need by his bamboo "Severe" poverty at used him to travel abroad. He visited Lebanon and got acquainted with styles of bamboo work in some of the countries.

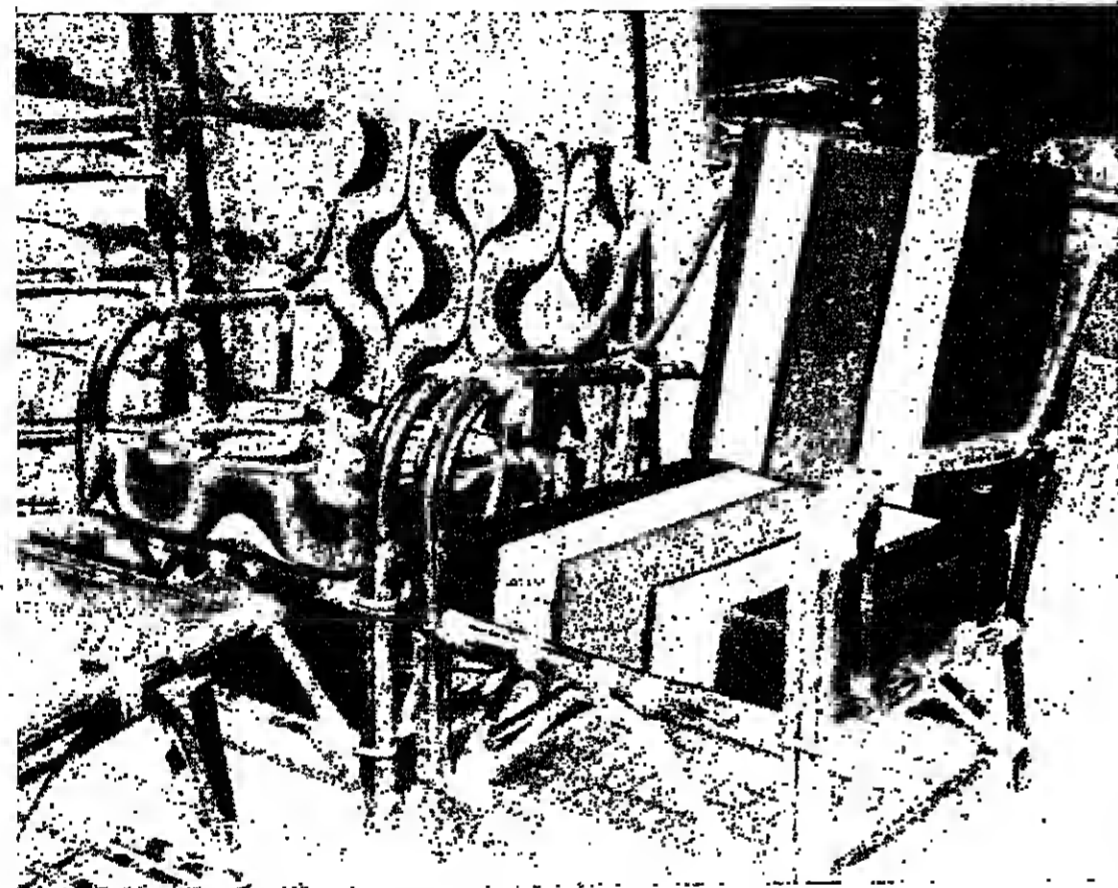
by Jordan's "massive" imports of foreign-made furniture. "This affects our business, and the handicraft itself, very negatively," he complained. He added that his hand-made merchandise is much cheaper than foreign-made furniture, which can cost JD 400 for a set. His workshop charges only JD 80 for the same set, he said.

"I call on the concerned government authorities to curb the imports of foreign-made furniture to allow the promotion of hand-made bamboo work, which is stronger, more convenient and more durable," he said.

Mr. Fahmak says that at his workshop with the help of his son Khaled, he makes "all bamboo products" — incense burners, decorated mirrors, tables, all sorts of baskets and chairs.

Mr. Fahmak seems to have confidence in his ability to produce work, that confidence is not matched by a similar confidence in the part of customers. Foreigners include tourists, but unfortunately, the foreigners are not so confident of the bamboo work.

Local people patronise the workshop usually abuse the work they buy," he added. Mr. Fahmak told stories of tourists buying bamboo products, not for use in their homes, but to throw them away. The flammable bamboo material, he said, is the cause of most of the local people's problems with customers. Mr. Fahmak also complained that the competition caused



Bamboo chairs: threatened by imported styles

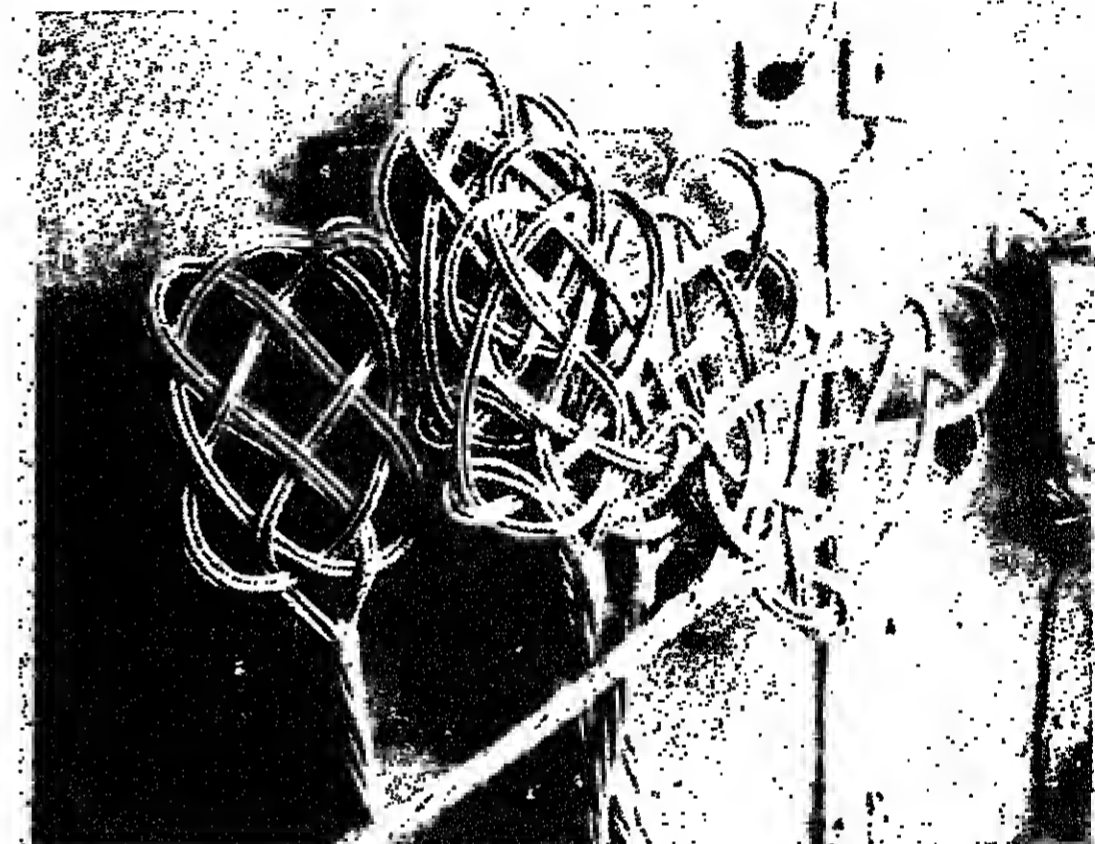
"The promotion of Jordanian hand-made work — including the bamboo works — will make our citizens more confident of our ability to produce competitive pieces that are more suitable for our culture and social environment," Mr. Fahmak declared.

Another problem facing the bamboo craft industry in Jordan is caused by the restrictions imposed by the government on the imports of raw materials necessary for the craft. "We usually receive the raw materials through an intermediary who imports it from Singapore, the Philippines, Hong Kong or any other tropical state," Mr. Khaled Fahmak said. Importation of the raw material is restricted to certain concerns, and while the bamboo costs JD 5 a kilogram here, it is apparently cheaper in some neighbouring countries, such as Iraq.

"I wish the government would import the raw material for us and sell it to special agents in the country, so that we could get rid of the restrictions imposed on the procedure," Mr. Fahmak, junior said. He added that it would be a risky adventure for an individual bamboo worker to push himself into the competitive international market, since he needs money and contacts.

The present market situation for bamboo is dull, mainly due to world-wide inflation. "I used to have a separate workshop in Jabal Amman, but the weak purchasing power of the customers forced me to close it down and move in here to work with my father," the younger Mr. Fahmak said. Four years ago, a furniture set was sold for JD 20 instead of JD 80, but profits were greater, he said.

Asked why, in his financial squeeze, he does not apply for loans



Rag-beaters are among the variety of bamboo items available

Healing and harmony with honey

By Phyllis Hughes
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A taste of honey could bring you joy and happiness, according to Jordan's bee-keeper.



Ragheb Shammout

Ragheb Shammout, an engineer at the Ministry of Agriculture, keeps 56 hives near his home as a hobby. But his rearing bees has become a profession with the help of his wife. Shammout produces programmes of honey and his family use honey as a substitute for sugar — but his greatest interest is in the medicinal properties of honey. He specialises in the much sought-after royal jelly which has been used to help infertile couples.

It is rich in vitamin E, which stimulates fertility. Experiments carried out by Russian experts have shown that the life span of animals fed on very small amounts of royal jelly is increased by a third. Pullets fed on a diet including royal jelly laid more eggs, and it stimulated old fowls to start laying again.

The main problem in collecting the jelly is that it is produced only when the beehive is left without a queen or the queen is old. Beekeepers have increased production by removing the queen from the hive, so that the bees then prepare several queen cells.

Royal jelly has been used to treat infertile couples, but also for cardiovascular problems, and such illnesses as tuberculosis, brucellosis and arthritis. But Mr. Shammout is an ardent believer in the medicinal qualities of honey itself. Over 10,000 tons of honey are imported to Jordan every year, as it is a very popular item on the breakfast table.

Honey has been used for centuries as a remedy and means of healing. In ancient Egypt it was used to heal wounds and for stomach disorders, while in India it was considered that honey would preserve youth.

In ancient Greece honey was thought of as one of nature's most precious gifts. One leading Roman physician considered honey as an all-purpose remedy. Later, in the Arab World, honey was used extensively used by doctors.

In more recent times, honey has been found to help in heart disorders. Glucose is contained in the honey, and this glucose is vital for

Russian doctors have found that honey helped to ease stomach ulcers and other gastric complaints, and was also an effective remedy for some eye diseases. Mr. Shammout practises his own "honeycures". He treats common stomach complaints and such things as sore throats with honey, and recommends that a honey face mask "will get rid of a crow's feet" and make a woman look younger.

"Bees are vital insects who help trees and plants by carrying pollen and enabling fertilisation to take place," Mr. Shammout said. "They are also holy insects for me, because they are specially mentioned in the Koran."

Mr. Shammout has not yet explored the possibilities of using bees in treating various ailments. This unusual treatment has been growing in popularity in the West, where it has been found to help relieve rheumatism and blood pressure. Bee venom is transparent and has a bitter burning taste. It contains many proteins and volatile oils, which evaporate when it is dried. Cleopatra, who was interested in the effects of poison, tried out many different varieties on prisoners condemned to death. She found that wasp venom, used because bees were sacred, caused the quickest and most painless end. But in recent years it has been discovered that bee stings, when administered clinically, can help to treat rheumatism, some nervous complaints and various skin diseases. But Russian enthusiast Naum Ioyrish warns that just one bee sting can kill someone hypersensitive to the venom, and any treatment must be carried out only by a qualified and experienced doctor.

royal jelly contains up to 10 per cent protein, between 10 and 15 per cent sugar, up to 5.5 per cent fat and more than one per cent vitamins B1, B2, B3, B6, Bc, and a little vitamin C or A.

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A Jordan Times in-depth series

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OPINION

Jordan Times

Responsible Editor: **MUHAMMAD AMAD**
 Editor: **KAMAL C. HOURI**
 Managing Editor: **MAJAZ D. SHEHAYE**

Head of Directors: **JEMMA HANMAD**
 Deputy: **KAYALISSA**
 Editor: **MUHAMMAD AMAD**
 Editor: **MAHMUD AL-TARZI**

Editorial and advertising offices: **JORDAN PRESS FOUNDATION**
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DE FACTO ECONOMICS Active policy-making

By T.A. Jab

Government policies are the actions and measures adopted by the ministries, departments and public institutions in direct response to certain problems or issues with the hope of creating better conditions for the country and its people. This applies to all areas of action: political, cultural, economic and social.

Economic policies refer to fiscal, monetary, commercial, industrial and overall developmental measures. Ineffective policy-making is characterised by reacting to problems of the past and only after their negative consequences. Proper policy-making acts on current problems and issues. However, active policy-

Consensus, anyone?

THE SWIFT manner in which the Arab foreign ministers in Tunis agreed on a unanimous position of support for Syria in the current affair of the missiles in the Bekaa Valley should cause Washington to look again at the undercurrents of political belief in the Middle East. For it is the United States, above all others, that stands to lose the most from the current situation — no doubt that is why the Americans were so swift to send in a mediator to try his hand at diplomatic magic. By calling for a return to the status quo ante, the Americans are only magnifying their chronic inability to deal honestly and forcefully with the realities of this part of the world. The status quo ante, in our eyes, is nothing more than an American-approved licence for Israel to attack Palestinians and Lebanese in south Lebanon with complete abandon. This also makes mince-meat of the American claim to respect the "territorial integrity" of Lebanon. If such respect exists, why does America do nothing about Israel's use of American-supplied planes to turn assorted parts of Lebanon into a virtual free-fire zone? Is it alright to kill Arabs as it was alright for Americans to kill Vietnamese, dropping bombs from the air and claiming the "right" of preventive and pre-emptive strikes? We have been told over and over that the United States wants to see a strategic consensus emerge in the Arab World. It already has. In Tunis. But the enemy is Israel and the United States.

ARAB PRESS COMMENTARY

AL RA'I: So far the Arab countries have not issued a declaration clarifying their attitude towards Soviet President Leonid Brezhnev's call to convene an international conference on the Middle East, and to the quick American rejection of this call.

It is likely that the Arab silence is temporary and is a result of the desire to coordinate and crystallise a unified Arab stand towards this issue. However, this silence should not be maintained for too long. It is unreasonable for the Arabs to take the position of spectators while Moscow and Washington exchange views on how to handle Middle East events. Therefore, the Arabs should take the initiative in adopting a clear stand towards the Soviet call and its American rejection, because this concerns primarily the Arabs.

If the Arabs believe that amendments should be introduced to the Soviet call in one way or the other, they must crystallise their viewpoint and make it public. They can have talks in this connection with the Soviets, Americans and the European community. But if the Soviet call is acceptable the way it is now, the Arabs must support it and lay their weight behind it. In either case, the Arab voice should be heard. Mr. Brezhnev's call is an important Sov-

iet initiative which came at a very delicate time. This initiative does not concern Washington alone, and it primarily concerns the Arabs. While the U.S. administration rejected it, the Arabs should not maintain silence towards it, particularly since it was the Arabs who have been calling on the Soviet Union and the international community to act.

AL DUSTOUR: A pan-Arab atmosphere prevailed at the emergency session of the Arab foreign ministers held in Tunis in view of the gravity of the Zionist challenge in Lebanon and the increasing possibility of military confrontation between Israel and Syria. Such an atmosphere is one of the main indicators which still give rise to hope that the future of our nation, despite bad luck and setbacks, cannot but be a continuation of a glorious past inscribed by the bloody struggle of our fathers and forefathers.

From the very beginning of the conference, it was clear that Jordan was placing all its weight behind fraternal Syria in defence of Arab land and dignity.

The general trend of the resolutions adopted by the Arab foreign ministers was expressive of the national appeals made daily

since the Israeli rule in it became clear and exposed. However, the resolutions adopted in Tunis should be crystallised in pan-Arab steps taken by every Arab administration and translated into practical terms. While this is necessary for all the Arab capitals, it becomes more urgent in the Lebanese capital particularly regarding the stopping of bloodshed in Lebanon and the quick agreement on a national reconciliation among the Lebanese, as well as a permanent and acceptable formula for all the sides concerned, including the Palestinians.

As for appealing to the United States to stop all aid to Israel and to warn it against possible confrontation with the Arab Nation, this is an appeal which has been repeated often without any sign of cooperation coming from Washington, except leaning closer to the Israeli side and supplying the Zionist enemy with all that enhances his aggressive capabilities.

The critical situation which the Arab Nation is facing these days is capable of making this nation determined to overcome all the challenges it is facing: Checking the Zionist aggression, supporting the Syrian position, and defending the unity of Lebanon and the safety of the Lebanese and the Palestinians.

What can be recommended? First, the time lag between identifying a policy and its implementation should be shortened. There are issues which have been identified in the early stages but no proper action has been taken: for example, investment promotion, rain-fed agriculture, coordination among small farms, the contradictions in the structure of our customs and others.

Second, problem identification should be depersonalised. Government officials tend to be taking action due to the feeling that they are dealing with personal problems. However, national issues and concerns may be seen by one person or a group of persons due to their direct or indirect awareness. There is no doubt that to develop proper channels to activate existing ones for national issues. For instance, trade unions, federations, farmers' cooperatives, associations, and others.

Third, the market mechanism should be efficient, self-operating, and free of bottlenecks, surpluses and imbalances. There has been a tendency in recent years towards controlling markets. This has led to centralised bottlenecks in certain markets and has burdened the budget with increasing subsidies. We need less of the administered price more of the market forces. This was to result in a slight rise in our rate of inflation, we need more forums for exchange of views on economic and social policies. National seminars have been instrumental in this regard. The idea of creating a club for government civil employees should be seriously considered.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE

JORDAN TELEVISION

CHANNEL 3

4:30 Koran
 4:45 Cartoons
 5:20 Children's programme
 5:45 Little house on the prairie
 6:40 Programme Preview
 7:00 Local Programme on
 Independence & Army Day
 8:00 News in Arabic
 9:10 Arabic Series
 10:15 Bestseller
 11:00 News in Arabic
 11:10 Cont. of Bestseller

CHANNEL 6

6:00 French programme
 7:00 News in French
 7:30 News in Hebrew
 8:30 Benson
 9:10 Spoils of War
 10:00 News in English
 10:15 Bestseller
 11:00 News in Arabic

RADIO JORDAN

855 KHz AM & 99 MHz FM

7:00 Sign on
 7:01 Morning Show
 7:30 News Bulletin
 7:40 Morning Show
 10:00 Morning Show
 10:30 Morning Show
 11:00 30 minute Theatre
 11:30 Sign off
 12:00 News Headlines
 12:03 Pop Session
 13:00 News Summary
 13:03 Pop Session
 14:00 News Bulletin
 14:10 Instrumentals
 14:30 30 minute Theatre
 15:00 Concert Hour
 16:00 News Summary
 16:03 Instrumentals
 16:30 Old Favourites
 17:00 Country Music
 17:30 Pop Session
 18:00 News Summary
 18:03 Men from the Ministry
 18:30 Sports Round-up
 19:00 News Desk (News bulletin, Press review, News Reports)
 19:30 Music
 20:30 Evening Show
 21:00 News Summary
 21:03 Evening Show
 21:57 News Headlines
 22:00 Sign off

BBC WORLD SERVICE

630, 720, 1413 KHz

GMT

04:00 Newsdesk 04:30 The Captain's Doll 04:45 Notes from an Observer 04:50 Book Choice 04:55 Reflections 05:00 World News; 24 Hours; News Summary 05:30 Peoples' Choice 05:45 Yours Faithfully

VOICE OF AMERICA

GMT

03:30 The Breakfast Show: 06:30 News, Pop music, features, listeners' questions, 17:00 News Roundup: reports, opinion, analyses, 17:30 Dateline 18:00 Special English: news, feature "The Leaving Earth" 18:30 Country Music USA 19:00 News Roundup: reports, opinion, analyses, 19:30 VOA Magazine: Americana, science, culture, letters, 20:00 Special English: news 20:15 Music USA (jazz) 21:00 VOA World Report 22:00 News, Correspondents' reports, background features, media comments, analyses.

DEPARTURES:

03:30 Cairo
 05:45 Damascus, Frankfurt (LH)
 07:00 Damascus
 07:00 Aqaba
 07:40 Beirut, Paris (AF)
 08:55 Cairo (EA)
 09:00 Damascus, Rome (IA)
 09:25 Beirut (MEA)
 10:30 Larnaca
 11:00 New York, Amsterdam
 11:10 Athens, Madrid
 11:45 Geneva, Brussels
 12:00 London
 12:20 Frankfurt
 12:30 Geneva, Zurich (SR)
 12:30 Paris
 12:40 Cairo
 15:25 Moscow (SU)
 16:30 Kuwait (KAC)
 16:35 Medina, Jeddah (SV)
 16:35 Benghazi, Tripoli (LN)
 19:00 Kuwait
 19:20 Dhahran
 19:30 Jeddah
 19:45 Baghdad
 20:00 Cairo
 20:30 Cairo (EA)
 21:15 Abu Dhabi, Dubai
 01:00 Cairo

ARRIVALS

7:40 Cairo (EA)
 8:45 Cairo
 8:55 Aqaba
 9:20 Damascus
 9:30 Jeddah

MUSEUMS

CULTURAL CENTRES

American Centre 41520
 British Council 36147-8
 French Cultural Centre 37809
 Goethe Institute 41993
 Soviet Cultural Centre 44203
 Spanish Cultural Centre 24049
 Turkish Cultural Centre 39777
 Haya Arts Centre 65195
 Al Hussein Youth City 67181
 Y.W.C.A. 41793
 Amman Municipal Library 36111
 University of Jordan Library 84355/84366

SERVICE CLUBS

Lions Philadelphia Club. Meetings every second and fourth Wednesday at the Grand Palace Hotel, 1.30 p.m.

Lions Amman Club. Meetings every first and third Wednesday at the Intercontinental Hotel, 1.30 p.m.

Rotary Club. Meetings every Thursday at the Intercontinental Hotel, 2.00 p.m.

Philadelphia Rotary Club. Meetings every Wednesday at the Holiday Inn, 1.30 p.m.

PRAYER TIMES

Fajr 2:56
 Dhahr 11:33
 'Asr 3:14
 Maghreb 6:34
 'Isha 8:10

LOCAL EXCHANGE RATES

Saudi riyal 98.4/98.9
 Lebanese pound 78.2/79.5
 Syrian pound 48.9/49.6
 Iraqi dinar 725/734.6
 Kuwaiti dinar 1194.3/1200.6
 Egyptian pound 394.6/399
 Qatari riyal 91/91.4
 UAE dirham 90.5/91.1
 Omani rial 961.1/968.3
 U.S. dollar 333/335
 U.K. sterling 689.3/693.4
 W. German mark 144/144.9
 Swiss franc 160.7/161.7
 Italian lire 28.9/29.1 (for every 100)
 French franc 59.6/60
 Dutch guilder 129.4/130.3
 Swedish crown 67.6/68
 Belgian franc 88.2/88.7
 Japanese yen 149.6/150.5 (for every 100)

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Ambulance (government) 75111
 Civil Defence rescue 61111
 Fire headquarters 26381-2
 Jordan Electric Power Co. (emergency) 37111-3
 Municipal water service (emergency) 3914
 Police headquarters 3914
 Najdeh roving patrol rescue police, (English spoken) 24 hours a day for emergency 21111, 37777
 Airport information (ALLA) 92285/92296
 Jordan Television 73111
 Radio Jordan 74111

Firstaid, fire, police 199
 Fire headquarters 22990
 Cablegram or telegram 18

Telephone:

Information 12
 Jordan and Middle East trunk calls 10
 Overseas radio and satellite calls 17
 Telephone maintenance and repair service 11

FORECAST FOR MONDAY, MAY 25, 1981

YOUR DAILY Horoscope
 from the Carroll Righter Institute

GENERAL TENDENCIES: You are eager to receive praise and encouragement but you need to display more creative skills before this happens. The acclaim of others will spur you on to greater efforts.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Be sure to handle important business matters as early as possible today. Take time to please the one you love.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Don't neglect to take care of a delicate condition at home that is upsetting the natural harmony there. Stop wasting time.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Choose your words wisely with others today, or there could be trouble. Try to be encouraging to a co-worker who is depressed.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21) If you are more objective you can handle monetary matters most intelligently now, and gain the respect of others.

LEO (July 22 to Aug. 21) You can accomplish a great deal today if you apply yourself properly. Take health treatments that can lift your spirit.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) If you are not happy with your environment, this is a good day to improve it. Try to be more generous with loved ones.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Be sure to steer clear of social affairs where arguments could easily start. Find recreation elsewhere and be happy.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Show others you are a fine citizen and at the same time make a good impression on higher-ups. Improve your credit standing.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) You could be eager to start on a new project today, but this is not the right time for such. Be wary of outsiders.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Study whatever you have in mind that could lead to greater abundance in the future. Strive for happiness.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Think more of the who mean much to you. Try to please them more and go their goodwill. Think constructively.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Take the right steps to become a more dynamic person. Plan time for improving your health through right treatments.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY ... he or she will be one who can solve problems easily and should have good practical training early in life. Give the encouragement needed to bring out the fine talents in this child. Governmental work could be fine here.

"The Stars impel, they do not compel." What you make of your life is largely up to you!

MARKET PRICES

Tomatoes	100	60	Carrots	100	100
Eggplant	160	110	Turnips	110	80
Peas (imported)	110	80	Bananas	270	200
Marrow (small)	200	150	Bananas (from makhmar)	235	160
Marrow (large)	100	80	Dates	250	250
Cucumber (small)	200	160	Apples (American, Japanese red, waxed)	480	420
Cucumber (large)	110	80	Apples (Double Red)	310	250
Peas	140	140	Apples (Starken)	210	170
String beans	250	180	Apples (Golden)	260	200
Potatoes (local)	130	100	Oranges (Shamouti)	200	200
Leituze (head)	70	70	Oranges (Valencia)	150	150
Cauliflower	180	120	Oranges (Waxed)	120	120
Bell pepper	190	120	Grapefruit	160	160
Cabbage	70	70	Lemon	320	240
Spinach	120	120	Coconut (piece)	200	200
Onions (dry)	90	90	Water Melons	150	150
Onions (green)	280	280			
Garlic	150	150			

Handwritten signature or mark.

ماذا من الاجر

People take stock of the day!

By **Mohammad Ayish and Dina Matar**

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — As some Jordanians appear to be satisfied with the degree of development the country has achieved since its independence, others view the future of that development with optimism and caution. "Jordan headed for such wonderful economic development with the launching of the five-year development plans that aimed at establishing a strong economic base," said Saleh Jabr, a TV broadcaster. The results of those development plans are amazing if they are compared with those in other developing countries, he said.

He added that the Jordanian society has an unchangeable character that does not change by development. That character, he added is represented by the gallantry, love and generosity of the Jordanian people.

But as some Jordanians see change as a major result of the government-sponsored development plans, others believe that man is also an important factor contributing to that development.

"Man in Jordan is the most precious resource and economic asset in Jordan as it managed to work its way into development despite the scarcity of its economic resources," said Yahia Khawaldeh, a university graduate. He told Jordan Times that Jordan's economic as well as social development is worthy of admiration since it has utilised man as its major asset. The progress achieved by

this country is not confined to economic and social development but also includes ceaseless Jordanian efforts on the pan-Arab and international scenes, according to some Jordanians.

"Jordan now enjoys a highly respectable position among many countries and this is mainly due to the wise diplomacy of His Majesty the King," said Ahmad Hamzeh, a store keeper in downtown Amman. He told the Jordan Times that the hosting of the Arab and Islamic conferences last year in Amman is indicative of that fact. He also added that Jordan has come to attain that Pan-Arab and international position because of the uniqueness of the Jordanian citizen who embodies the meanings of "true Arab gallantry and generosity."

The change introduced to the Jordanian society was gradual in the first decade of independence, but came to take rapid trends since the early 1970's, according to Saled Mohtasieb a long-time typist. He said that the proliferation of educational institutions such as universities, community colleges and schools in Jordan heralds a promising future. He added that the prevailing security all over Jordan has been an important factor for economic and social development in the country.

Besides educational advancement, the country's unprecedented feats in the field of health have also been landmarks in its post-independence history. "As medical treatment was a burden on the shoulders of the Jordanian citizens, it has come to be part of the free medical insurance which the government sponsors,"

said Mohammad Shower, a school teacher. He added that development in Jordan has covered equally the agricultural, industrial and touristic sectors of the society.

Mr. Shower also said that the agricultural nature of Jordan has required the full utilisation of manpower as the major asset in the economy. That manpower, Mr. Shower added makes man in Jordan the crux of economic development which suffers from scarcity of natural resources.

But as some Jordanians view the ongoing economic and social development in Jordan with optimism, others share the same feeling, but they have their own reservations about the future of that development.

"Compared to other developing countries, Jordan has occupied a leading position in terms of economic and social development and we hope such developmental gains would be preserved for the benefit of the Jordanian people," said Salim Ahmad, a third-year student in engineering at Yarmouk University. He said there should be a balance between the material development and the moral values of our society so that no imbalance would take place. He added that so far, the Jordanian society has managed to maintain that balance as it absorbs modern world technology while maintaining its unique traditional character.

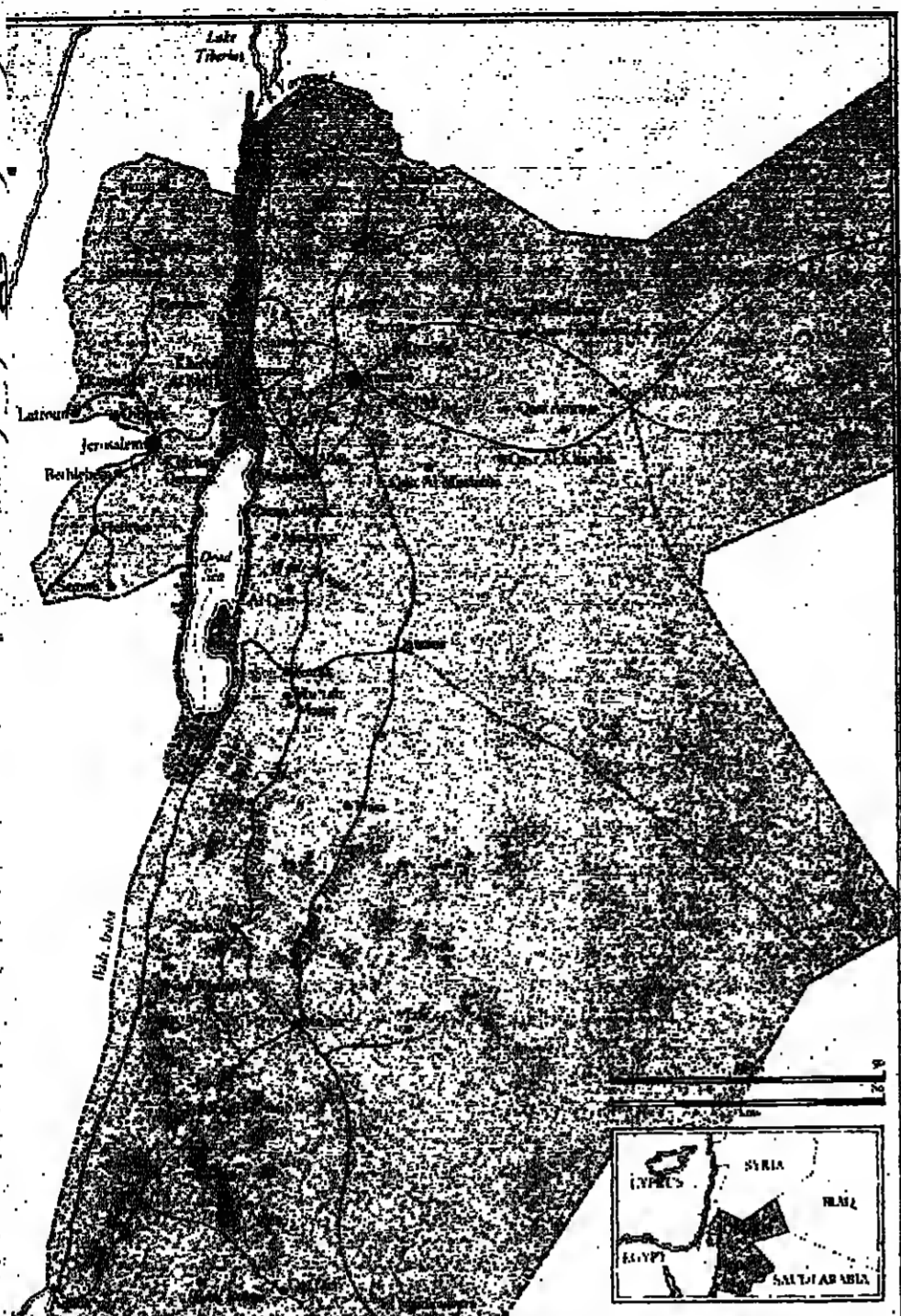
Another Jordanian, Hamid Assad, who works as a mechanic, expressed delight with the economic development in Jordan. "When I remember how many cars I used to fix some 15 years ago, and compare that with

what I fix at present, I just fully understand the change introduced to our society," he said. He added that one out of ten Jordanians owns a car or a vehicle of some kind and this sheds light on the interaction between man and technology in the Jordanian society. But he told the Jordan Times that learning how to drive a car or operate a machine the right way is far more important than possessing it in a large quantity. "All accidents that take place in the country are more or less the result of

improper use of technology," the veteran mechanist told the Jordan Times.

On the other hand, there are some Jordanians who believe that the change introduced to Jordan since its independence is inevitable and cannot be restrained. "Wherever technology is introduced, it would leave its scars on the social and moral values of the society," according to Sameer Salman, a university of Cairo graduate with a sociology

Continued on page 6



NATIONAL DAY SUPPLEMENT
May 25, 1981
Produced by **IRSHAD NAJAM**

Amman, May 25, 1946

By **Maaz D. Shukayr**

It was a hectic but very enjoyable and memorable day for elementary school children in Amman, the little town of no more than 10,000 inhabitants. Like a bride on her wedding night, the capital was at the apex of excitement in anticipation of the big moment, at around 9 a.m., when Abdulla Ibn Al Hussein was to sign a document accepting a decision by the Legislative Council proclaiming the 25-year-old Emirata of Transjordan a kingdom and naming him King Abdullah I of the Hashemite Kingdom of Transjordan.

The festive atmosphere had started in the early hours of that bright morning. The temperature was rising. It was not surprising, as tens of thousands of Ammanites and other Transjordanians converged on the town to line up the streets, in some places ten deep, from Parliament House in Jabal Amman's First Circle (which was the only circle at the time), down to Wadi Seer Street and King Faisal Street, through Saadeh and Rida streets to Hashemi Street all the way to the Raghadan Bridge area (which at the time did not have a bridge) and up to Raghadan Palace (which then was the only building on Jabal Al Qusour).

The school children and boy scouts from around the country started lining the streets at 6 a.m. alongside members of the army and police officers. Bands were stationed at key intersections where they could play their melodies, many of which were nationalistic songs. The crowds joined the bands in singing and dancing in the streets.

The enthusiastic mood heightened at 8:30 a.m., when a motorcade led by the then prime minister, the late Ibrahim Hashem, started its slow trek from the Legislative House to Raghadan Palace, inching its way through the sea of people. It carried a delegation which was to present to Emir Abdulla a document containing the Legislative House's unanimous decision.

Continued on page 2

GLORY BE TO JORDAN
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Towards economic stability

By Jenab Tutunji
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Jordan's economy is growing at a respectable pace, large sums of money are being spent on infrastructure and sizeable industrial projects which should come on stream within the next couple of years, unemployment is negligible, the private sector is thriving in the atmosphere of an "open" economy and political stability, inflation is manageable if just above the world average and living standards are constantly rising.

Gross domestic product (GDP) grew at an average of over seven per cent in fixed prices a year during 1970-80, while most developing countries registered rates of 3-3.5 per cent. During the 1976-80 five-year-plan, GNP grew at a respectable average of 8.5 per cent a year in real terms, although it missed the target of 11.9 per cent. The new plan (1981-85) envisages an annual growth rate of 10.4 per cent from an estimated JD 705 million in 1980 at factor cost to JD 1156 in 1985.

Real growth in gross domestic product (GDP) averaged seven per cent a year during the three-year-plan (1973-75) and 11 per cent during the last five-year-plan, almost on target. A more modest 9.3 per cent growth rate is envisaged over the coming five years. GNP was estimated at JD 1,011 million in 1980, almost triple what it was in 1975. Per capita income rose a bit less steeply, because of the increase in population, from JD 185 in 1975 to JD 453 in 1980.

On the other side of the coin, Jordan has limited natural resources, no utilised energy resources of its own and is hence dependent on imported oil; most of the country is desert, cultivable agricultural land lies mainly in the Jordan rift and water resources are scarce. Jordan suffers from a hefty trade deficit and the government budget relies heavily on foreign — mainly Arab — aid. The population is increasing at a stiff 4.8 per cent annually: 3.1 per cent due to natural growth and the rest to migration. The birth rate may well go up to 3.4 per cent. "The age structure shows that more than 50 per cent of the population is under working age, which results in pressure on resources and obliges the government to allocate more funds for social and educational services. A large part of the labour force is outside Jordan, resulting in labour shortages and necessitating the import of expatriate labour, which amounted to 16 per cent of the total labour force in 1980," Secretary General of the National Planning Council Basel Jardaneh told the Jordan Times in an interview.

The main objectives of the previous and the new five year plans are similar: achieving a high GDP growth rate, increasing the contribution of the productive sectors to GNP, increasing the reliance of the government on domestic revenues to meet current spending and trimming the chronic trade deficit.

"In terms of its objectives and strategies, the new plan is more elaborate than the previous one. It tackles new areas such as land use, pollution, conservation of resources and the application of science and technology to accelerate development.

"Similarities also exist between targets in the framework of

both plans, but more emphasis is now being placed on providing basic human needs, manpower development and Arab economic cooperation. The 1981-85 plan puts emphasis on the fact that domestic revenues should cover current government expenditures fully by 1985."

Jordan receives \$1.25 billion a year in aid as a result of the Baghdad summit, which goes entirely to the army and budgetary support. Nevertheless, although investments during the 1975-80 plan period were ten per cent above target, "borrowing (for investment) from abroad was less than we envisaged; we were able to mobilise more domestic resources. We had been talking about total foreign resources (loans and capital) in the region of JD 350 million in real terms. The actual figure turned out to be less than JD 300 million in current terms. About 50 per cent investments were to have come from outside; in real terms they did not amount to 30 per cent."

Fixed investments during 1976-80 came to over 48 per cent of GDP and 33 per cent of GNP, quite commendable rates for a developing country.

But services continue to dominate the productive sectors. Some progress was achieved in that the contribution of the commodity producing sectors to GDP went up from 34 per cent in 1975 to almost 39 per cent in 1980, and should go up to nearly 49 per cent in 1985. The new plan would have services grow at an annual rate of 8.2 per cent and the commodity producing sectors at 13.5 per cent. The most important productive sectors are industry, agriculture and housing. The biggest single investment allocation in both plans was for industry. Income from industry has been growing at 13.6 per cent a year in real terms during the last five years. In the 1981-85 period, a 17 per cent annual growth target has been set. "Total investments in the industrial sector will be about JD 600 million. About two thirds of this will be investments in medium and small size manufacturing industries. Export figures indicate that these industries are doing well and showing very healthy growth. It is envisaged that the exports of commodities produced by such industries will go up from JD 22 million in 1980 to over 100 million in 1985," Mr. Jardaneh said. Medium scale industries include pharmaceuticals, paint, cigarettes, plastics, pipes, ceramics, food processing and corrugated cartons.

"A new area will be developing in the next five years: derivatives of minerals from the production of potash and the processing of phosphate rock, such as magnesium oxide, bromide, sodium tripolyphosphate and aluminium fluoride. More emphasis will be placed on building materials, metal fabrication, wood products and white cement," he added.

Income from agriculture has been growing at annual rate of 5.7 per cent in real terms during the last five years, which was below target, as was the performance of industry. "We are vulnerable as far as food security is concerned, but Jordan has done relatively well in agricultural production in the 1976-80 plan. The increase in production took place despite unfavourable weather conditions, which indicates that Jordan's reliance on weather conditions, as far as agricultural production in general is concerned, is diminishing, although such reliance is very high in the case of cereal production."

Agriculture and irrigation will take up 12 per cent of total investments in the new plan, and will come to about JD 310

million, and 180,000 additional dunums will be brought under permanent irrigation. Mr. Jardaneh said. "The effect of irrigation takes two to three years to show, so that the land put under full irrigation will not show its full potential in the next five years," he added. He suggests that Jordan should utilise land with high potential more efficiently and shift land with marginal potential to forage.

Investment in housing came to JD 258 million in current prices during the last five years, and is expected to rise to JD 338 million during 1981-85, making it the third largest investment allocation.

"Jordan's performance in the development of infrastructure over the last five years was most satisfying, especially in transport. Aqaba Port's handling capacity increased substantially, Aqaba rail and road construction increased at least 25 per cent and Queen Alia International Airport is under construction. The transport sector (roads, railways, ports, airports, including investments by Alia in aircraft, and the purchase of trucks by the private sector) will receive JD 500-560 million," Mr. Jardaneh said.

The ratio of government revenues to current government expenditures went up from 65.7 per cent in 1975 to 68.9 per cent in 1980, well below the expected 91.5 per cent, although they grew at more than 22 per cent a year in current prices. Assuming a slightly lower rate of increase of 20 per cent a year, it is envisaged that domestic revenues will cover all current expenditures by 1985. Mr. Jardaneh told the Jordan Times that the rise in domestic revenues would come from increases in customs revenues, an improvement in tax collection methods and, significantly, in the form of higher returns on government investments. "The phosphates industry will show substantial profits, and the government is the main shareholder. The potash and cement industries, in which the government is participating, will also bring in big returns." In addition, the government will be trimming its current expenditures and cutting down on subsidies. Annual increases in current expenditures will be kept under a ceiling of 12.5 per cent during the first three years of the new plan and under ten per cent during the last two years.

It is a well known fact that Jordan imports more than it exports. The balance of trade in commodities showed an average annual deficit of JD 407.3 million during 1976-80, while the balance of trade in services showed a surplus of JD 18.4 million, the lion's share of which is due to remittances from Jordanians working abroad. The current account deficit was almost completely covered by aid, mainly from Arab countries, to the tune of JD 218.9 million a year on average. In 1980, commodity imports amounted to JD 720 million, while exports were a mere JD 160 million.

The current account deficit in goods and services stood at an estimated JD 320 million in 1980 as opposed to JD 118.4 million in 1975 (counting remittances from Jordanians working abroad), but the ratio of this deficit to GNP fell slightly from 34.6 per cent to 31.5 per cent. Excluding remittances, the deficit is estimated at JD 560 million in 1980. Mr. Jardaneh told the Jordan Times: "Narrowing the relative importance of the trade gap in the 1981-85 plan is realistic. I have no doubts about this. Independent evaluations do not contradict our forecasts."

"If we take the current trend of consumption, with liberal import regulations, the trade gap will increase slightly in absolute terms; however, it will decline as a percentage of GDP" which means we will be producing more and importing relatively less.

As long as we do not have a problem with the balance payments (Jordan had a balance of payments surplus of 448 million during the period 1975-80), there is no need for measures to restrict imports.

"Such a restriction might affect the general atmosphere of investment in the country and the inflow of remittances from the families of Jordanians working abroad feel that the commodities they want are not available.

"However, the fact that the trade gap, as a percentage of GDP is declining," meaning we will be more self-sufficient producing our own needs, "will enable the government to pursue policies to limit imports should future conditions require that," Mr. Jardaneh added.

Another positive factor is that capital and intermediate goods and raw materials as a share of total imports rose from 60 per cent in 1975 to 68 per cent in 1980, while imports of consumer goods fell from 39 per cent to about 32 per cent. Part of this increase is due to the rise in oil prices, but even without oil, there has been a shift towards capital goods and raw materials. "The component breakdown of imports is developing in favour of capital goods and raw materials. The pattern will continue," Mr. Jardaneh said.

Commodity exports, including re-exports, rose from JD 48.9 million in 1975 to JD 160 million in 1980, and will go up to JD 523 million in 1985, Mr. Jardaneh said. In addition, "most big industries (which are export-oriented), will start commercial production during 1982. However, they will not attain a high level of utilisation of their production capacity in 1983," he went on. National exports (excluding re-exports) will amount to an estimated JD 432 million in 1985; export by large-scale enterprises such as the phosphates, potash, fertilisers and cement industries, will account for JD 27 million while the contribution of the manufacturing industry will be JD 107 million.

The principal markets for Jordanian exports are Arab countries, notably Iraq, Saudi Arabia and Syria. The single largest source of Jordan's imports is the European Economic Community (EEC) countries.

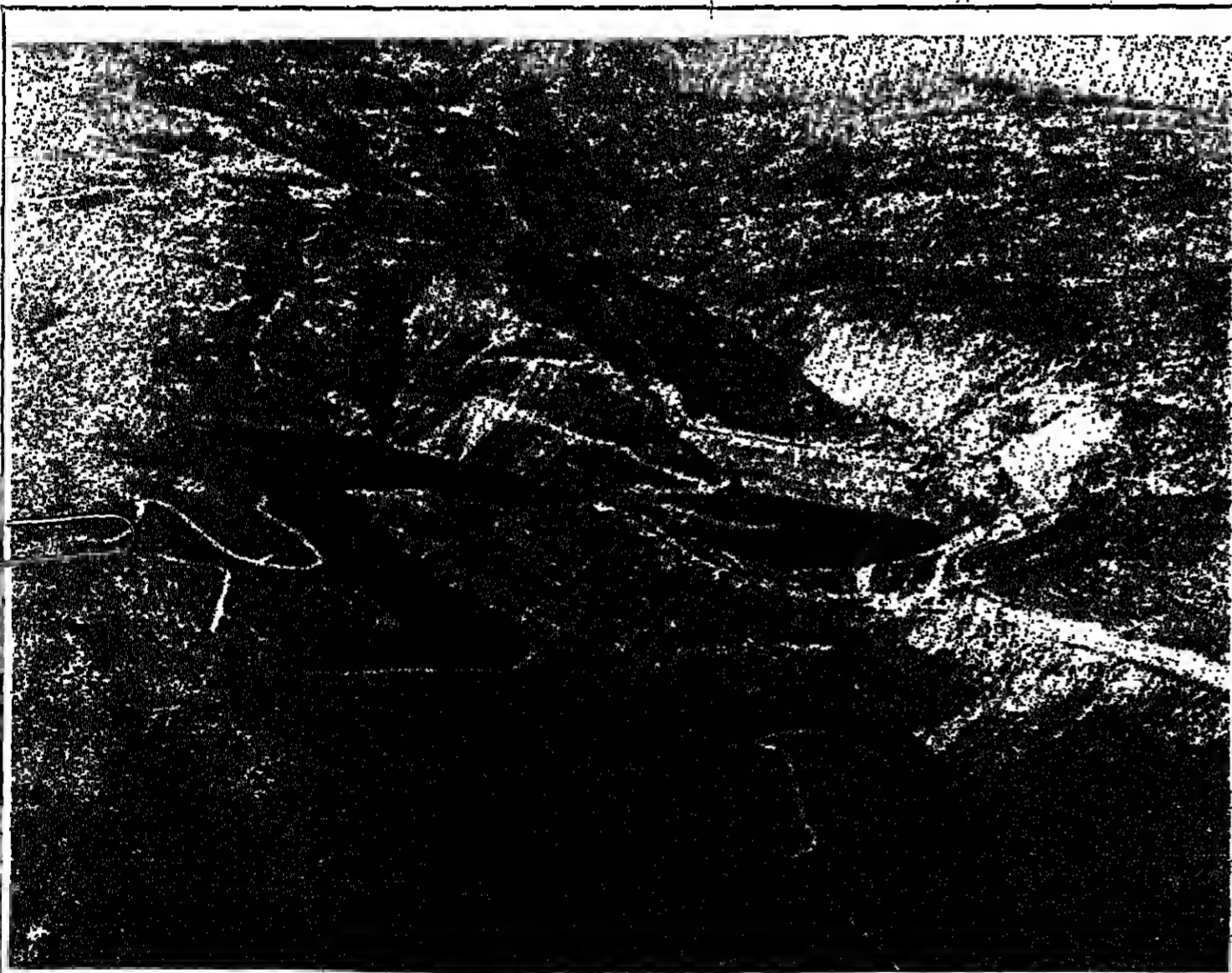
"Inflation during 1976-80 ran at about 11.7 per cent annually, which is a reasonably good ratio. The worldwide average is about ten per cent.

"We are using cost price indices as a measure. If we were to use wholesale indices, the rate would be lower," Jardaneh said.

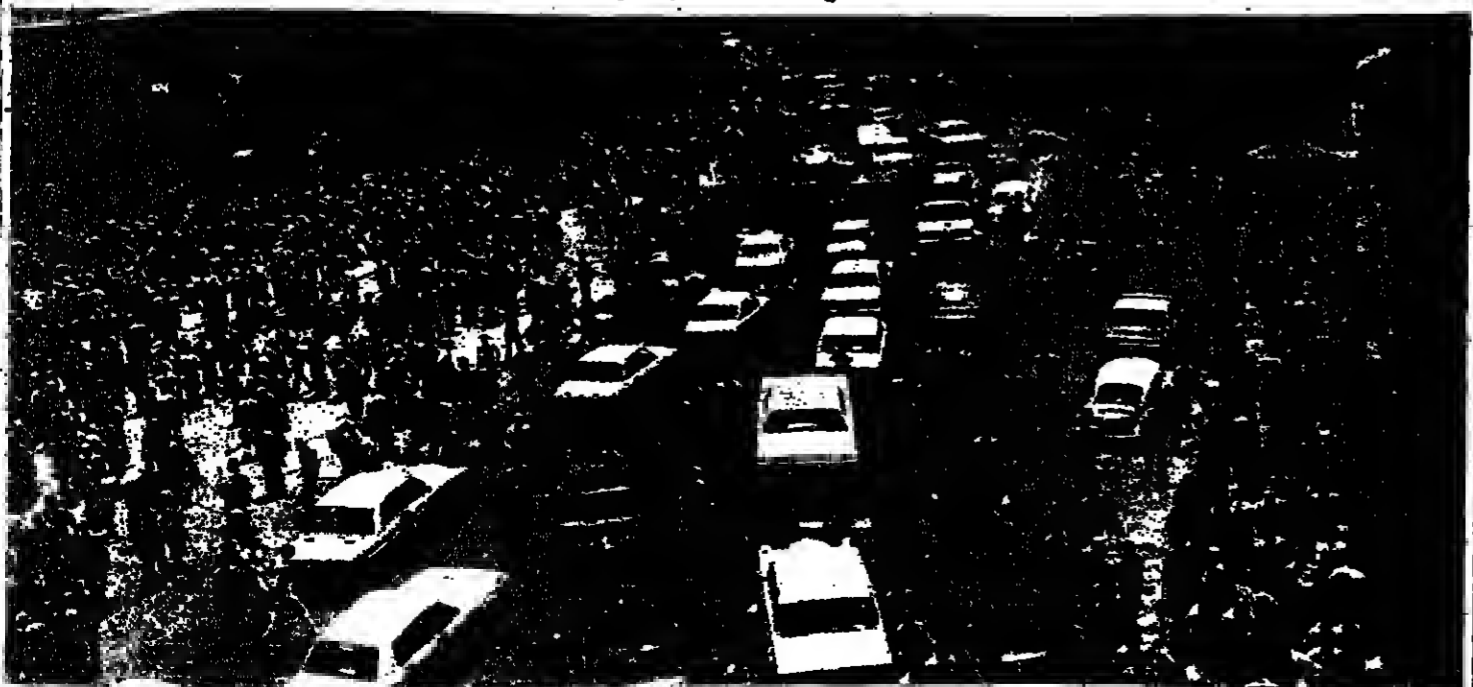
Although it is difficult to predict how inflation will behave in the long run, short term trends can be detected: "Inflation in the first four months of 1981 is running at almost 11 per cent. This is quite high; increases in the prices of oil products and sugar have contributed to it.

"However, 1981 shows a sharp increase in the cost of services, Personal care and education contributed to the high increase in the rate of inflation in the first four months of the

Continued on page 8



The \$35 million King Talal Dam.



A street in the downtown Amman.



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Jordan's past, present & future

By Irshad Najam

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this period were devoted to the strengthening of this Emirate which had birthpangs of political instability and tension in the area. But Abdullah's will and

still depended heavily on Britain - and it was this fact that hampered its admission to the United Nations Organisation in 1946. Soon after the Second World War, the Palestine problem re-emerged with

hristined as the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. And this union of the two banks of the Jordan River was recognised by the British government on April 27, 1950. The influx of Palestinian refugees to Jordan brought

and as a king since 1946. King Abdullah's assassination shook the government in Amman. Crown Prince Talal was away in Geneva for medical treatment, and his health didn't permit him to come back

more power was vested in the Prime Minister. A new constitution was promulgated on the 7th of January, 1952, after King Talal signed the historic document on January 1, 1952.

But regrettably, King Talal's health let him down and he abdicated in favour of his son Crown Prince Hussein - who was still a minor. Meanwhile the Advisory Council looked after the functions of monarchy - till the accession to the throne of His Majesty King Hussein.

H.M. King Hussein, with his formal education at Harrow and military training at Sandhurst, brought fresh ideas to his Kingdom. He laid down a fresh foreign policy for Jordan in harmony with the political and economic changes around the state. He enhanced friendly relations with all Arab countries.

But King Hussein, too, has had his share of conspiracies to dethrone him - which eventually he overcame. There were times in the history of this small state when economically it was on the verge of collapse, as it had no industry and little commerce. Agriculture, mainly in the Jordan Valley, was the primary livelihood of most Jordanians. But today what Jordan is under the leadership of King Hussein is well described in the following excerpt from a book on Jordan published by Hutchinson Benham, London, in 1978 to celebrate King Hussein's Silver Jubilee on the throne of Jordan:

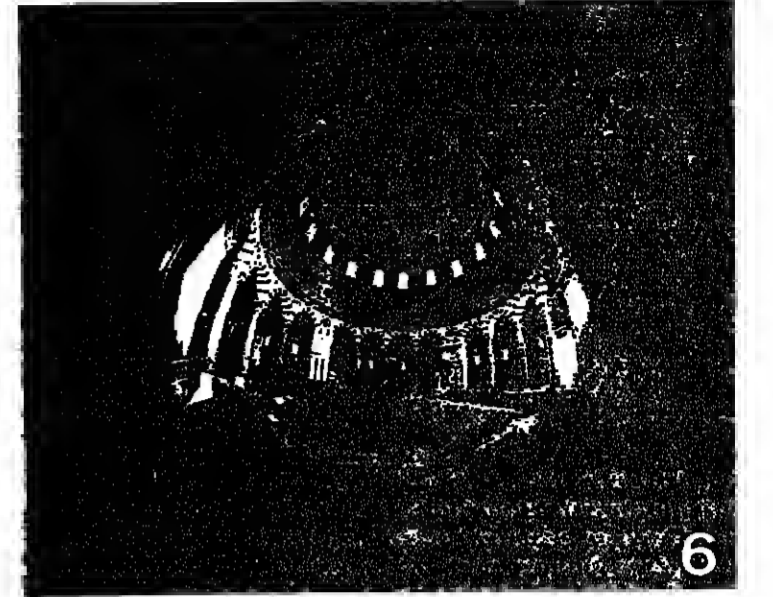
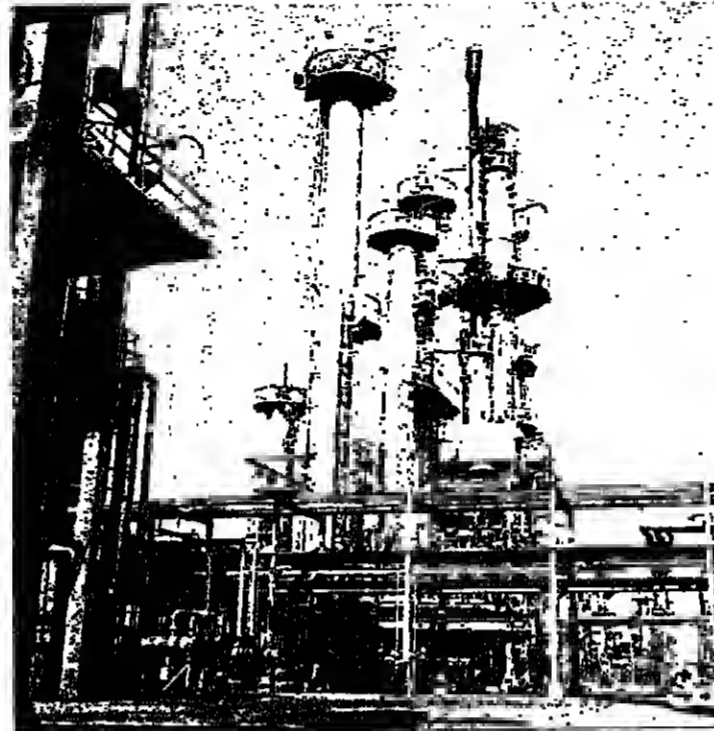
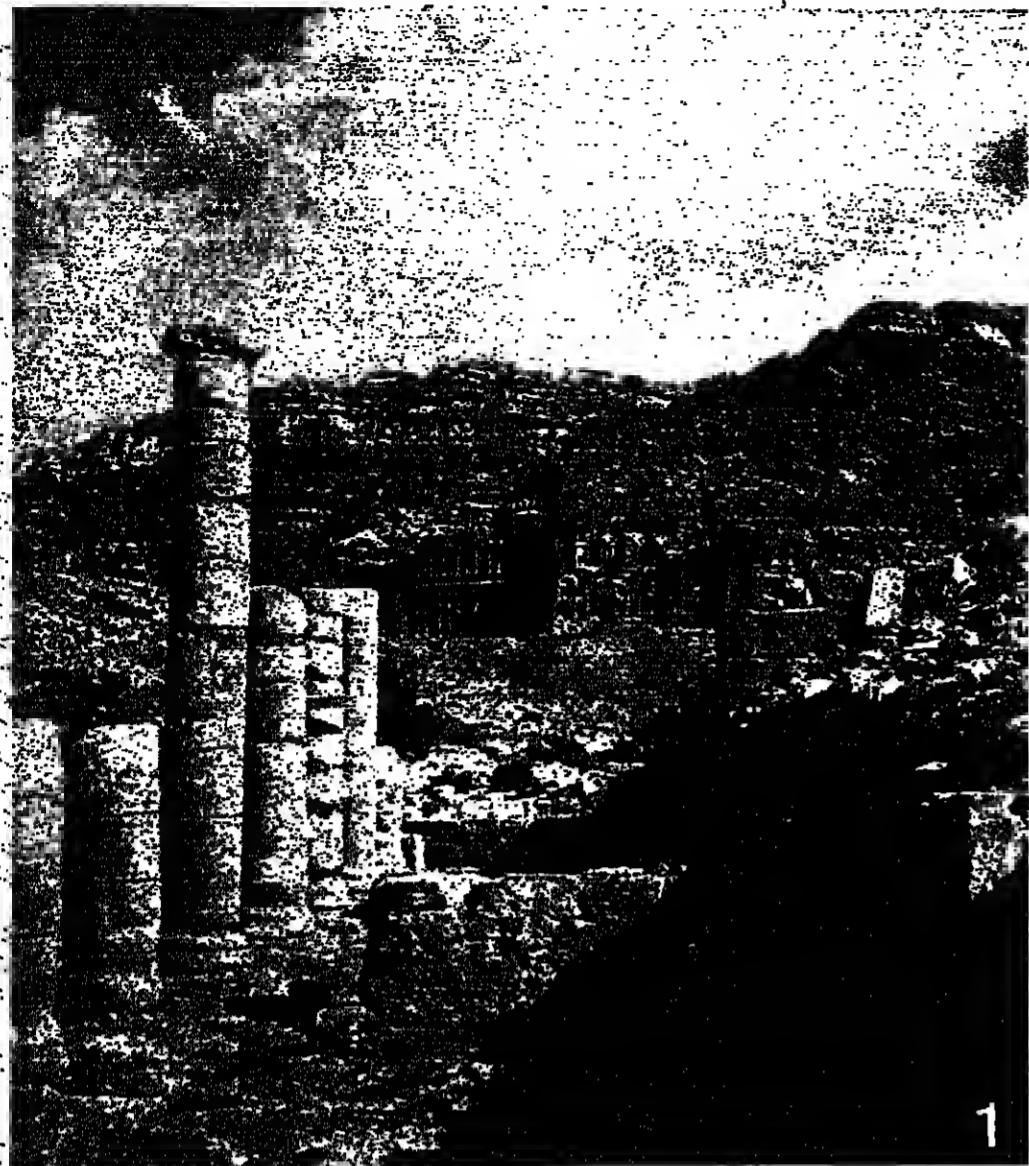
"In 1977 Jordan celebrated the Silver Jubilee of His Majesty King Hussein. More than a simple tribute to a much loved and progressive monarch, however the Jubilee celebrations were an affirmation of partnership, one which has achieved impressive results over the past twenty five years. Together the people of Jordan and their King have brought about profound changes in the country's social and economic

and resume power. Hence Amir Naif, younger brother of Amir Talal, was appointed Regent. But Crown Prince Talal returned to Amman on the 6th of September, 1951, and took the oath of monarchy on the same day. King Talal was a man of great personal charms, faultless private morals and a graduate of Sandhurst. He aimed at serving his country and his people with no sel-

the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan is among the smaller countries on the eastern borders of the Mediterranean - that ancient zone of settlement and transit where civilization had its beginnings. Landlocked, apart from a 40 kilometre coastline at the tip of Red Sea, more than four-fifths of the country is desert or

expanding economy all bear testimony to the quality and extent the development that has taken place. And this despite the disastrous consequences of the 1967 war on the nation's economy".

"For twenty five years the Hashemite Kingdom has provided an example of man's ability to triumph over adversity. The natural and



s the history of Jordan
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more. But in the im-
past - year 1921
the period when the
area of the Palestine
ate was divided and a
state, the Emirate of
Jordan, was carved out
red in a new system of
istration in the area.
Abdullah spearheaded
ministration."

leadership resisted all the rebellions of the tribal chiefs of the nomads in the infancy years of Transjordan. By the early 40s, Transjordan was a universally recognised state.

Then in 1946 the "Ahd al-Istiqlal" party initiated the second phase in the political stability and development of Transjordan. It formally conferred independence on this territory - but financially it

added vigour. The next few years saw more political turmoil in this region. The partition of Palestine saw the establishment of a Jewish State in 1948. And this unfortunate event affected the political status of Transjordan too. Eventually the Arab part of Palestine was merged with Transjordan. After its unification with a part of Palestine the state of Transjordan was rec-

in its wake innumerable miseries, economic stresses and political restlessness to Jordan once again. King Abdullah's burden had increased. He had political differences with some Palestinian leaders, and on the 20th July, 1951, he was shot and killed in Jerusalem cold bloodedly by a young Palestinian. He died at the age of 69 - after 25 years as Amir of Transjordan since 1921,

fish motives. He had the making of a democratic King and he started working towards achieving this end. He delegated more power and authority to the Chambers of Deputies and Notables. And

life, bridging, in a generation, the gap between an ancient past and a technological present.

"One of the many states which came into being as a result of the First World War,



semi-desert. While the climate is gentle, the terrain is harsh, and though this harshness provides interest and adventure for the tourists, it creates problems and challenges for Jordanians.

Jordan's ancient history and varied geography have bred a versatile and energetic people. The population of little more than two and a half million reveals a variety of cultures and reflects the legacy of centuries. Most Jordanians today are engaged in cultivation, mining and trade, and are becoming increasingly industrialised and urbanized. The standard of education is the highest in the Arab World. Schools, health services, communications and the rapidly

strategic handicaps facing the country when King Hussein acceded to the throne in 1952 endure today. The resource and vigour with which they are being tackled and turned to advantage is a modal of joint endeavour. Under the leadership of King Hussein the Jordanian people are building a just and modern society on the bedrock of traditional Arab values."

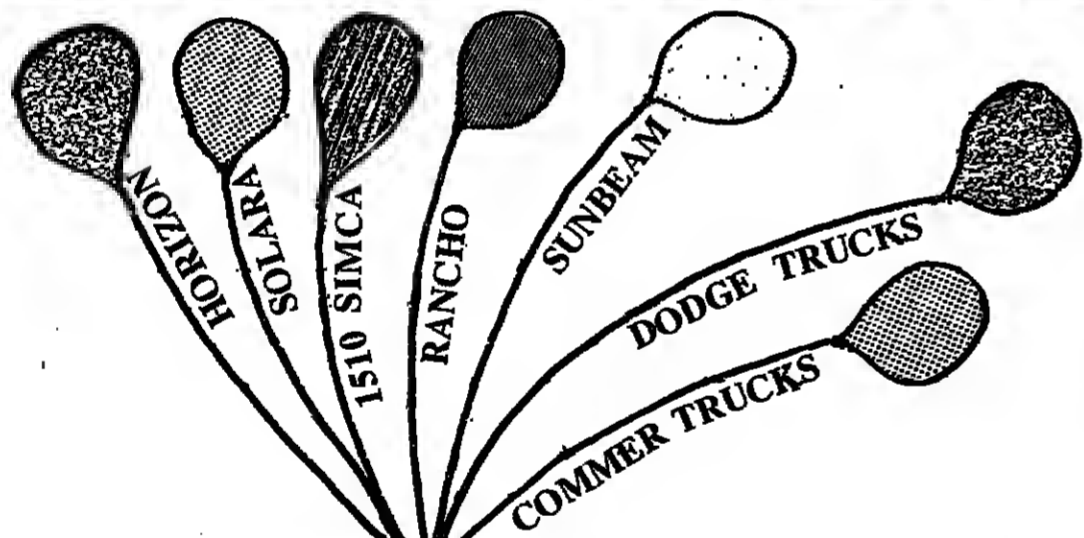
And the future of this small, but prospering, state looks brighter after the launching of the 2nd five-year development plan this year ... in which more progress is envisaged in the fields of education, agriculture, trade, communications, welfare, tourism, armed forces and health.

life, bridging, in a generation, the gap between an ancient past and a technological present.



1. Colonnaded street at Petra 2nd Century A.D.
2. The commercial port of Aqaba.
3. Oil Refinery near Zarqa.
4. Byzantine mosaic map of Jerusalem at Madaba.
5. King Abdullah and Crown Prince Talal in 1948.
6. Interior of the Dome of the Rock, Jerusalem.
7. Prince Hussein is proclaimed King of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, 11 August 1952.
8. Behind the Commander-in-Chief, jet fighters of the Royal Jordanian Airforce.
9. The East Ghor canal.

life, bridging, in a generation, the gap between an ancient past and a technological present.



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Continued from page 5

degree. In that case, it is advisable to cope with change rather than oppose it, and this has been the case with Jordan in which moral and social values go hand in hand with the technological progress achieved by the country, according to Mr. Salman.

For Mr. Yousef Horani, a Jordanian labourer and father of twelve, Jordan's National Day brings back memories of yet other similar days - when he hoped that he would be able to relax and not worry about expenses anymore. Mr. Horani lives in a two-room house, and his foremost concern is to be able to move to a bigger house by next year.

"I just cannot do that, simply because the cost of houses is too high. I cannot afford it when I have thirteen mouths to feed," he says. Mr. Horani hopes that his situation would improve next year. As for Jordan, Mr. Horani feels that the country has developed, "and, but for the high cost of living, everything is fine," he said.

Mrs. Nahla Majzoub, a housewife with four children feels that her family takes up all her thoughts and time. "I just do not have time to do anything else, since my oldest son is only nine," she says. Mrs. Majzoub has a degree in archaeology, but like so many married women here, the certificate is tucked away. Mrs. Majzoub's interests lie with sports, and whenever she finds time she does some exercises with some of her friends. In her opinion, "although Jordanian women have got better job opportunities than ten years ago, the situation is still the same." "Women here often only care about their appearance," she remarks. Jordan is developing, and as for Jordan's National Day, Mrs. Majzoub feels that

it is another day that she takes in stride.

Miss Amneh Daud, a chemist, is totally absorbed with her work, which is at the chemistry department at the Royal Scientific Society. But, she feels dissatisfied with how things are done in Jordan. "You have to live for others, work for others, and your poor old self just withers away," she says. Being a girl, Amneh has to abide by all the rules of society. As for Jordan, Amnah says that the country has developed. "We hear of more seminars held every day, of more buildings built, but people are the same deep down."

"I mostly care about my family," she said. "Palestine is at the back of my mind. But, as things are with the Arabs fighting over trivialities-nothing is going to happen in the near future." Amneh hopes that next year would bring more happiness to her life. "And that women get their equal rights here."

Miss Samira Zoumot, a computer operator, also feels that her work is the most important thing in her life, at the moment. "Of course, my family is very dear, and I think about it before I do anything," she says. Samira feels that the role of women in the society has not become any better except outwardly. "We do not have all the freedom we need," she said. Seven years ago, Samira was a very promising sportswoman, but because the society did not like it, "I had to leave it behind, and I really regret it," she said. Samira thinks that Jordan has grown over the years, but the mentality of people is still the same. "Probably, any change would take some time, but I want it to happen now to feel free to do things on my own," she says. "I just hope

that next year I would know nicer people, settle down, and get a better job."

Miss Mona Yousef, assistant manager of a department at an insurance company in Amman, has always liked to travel, to belly-dance, and just enjoy her day. She says, "the most important thing in my life is to make the most out of my day, because it is never coming back again." "My prior concern is my family, because they have done their best to please me," she says. According to Mona, women are just a "delivery" machine for men here, and their job from a man's point of view is just bearing children. "Even though I am working, I am still thought of as a female," she remarks. In her opinion, Jordan has changed, but she complains: "The rich are getting richer, and the poor are getting poorer," she says.

National Day has a personal significance for Mona, since it is also her parents' anniversary. "I love my country," she says, "but I just hope people would become more human. Personally, I hope that I find a man who can really appreciate me, and not just think of me as a woman."

For Miss Lana Masoud, a university student, her concerns lie with her lessons, which are a heavy load. Lana likes sports, reading and politics. But, she says, "women are not given their rights here, but it is mostly their own fault. They do not want to do anything about it."

The country is developing, and life is getting better. But, the rapid development had corrupted some people, she says, and on the whole has a bright facade that hides some less bright aspects underneath the surface.

On the political side, Lana feels that as long as Arabs

carry on with what they are doing right now, nothing could be done. She says, "I do not have any hopes for the future, since next year is going to be the same."

Miss Fatima Hajess, a social worker, also feels that the Jordanian women are still underprivileged. Fatima's job takes up most of her time, and her family takes up what is left of it.

She says, "I just hope that I could get a degree in law, because this has been and still is my dream." Fatima likes sports, and as to the Palestine cause, she feels that it has affected the people in a drastic way. "The social, psychological, aspect of our people's life has been greatly affected," she said. Jordan has developed greatly in the last decade. "It is not only seminars and speeches, we can feel the development," she says.

She hopes that people would live in peace and love. As for Miss Amneh Megdadi, an architect, her career is her goal. She thinks that the Jordanian woman has been given work opportunities, "not because anybody cares about her individuality, but because women can benefit the country's economy by working," she said.

Amneh likes to travel around the world by herself, to feel free as a person to take her own decisions and not to be dictated to. Politics and celebrations do not affect Amneh, "because we have gone through a lot," she says, "and anniversaries do not leave much impact on us."

She says that Jordan has developed, but the educational aspect is still the same. "I just hope that I get a better job, have my own office. I hate to be ordered around. On the other hand, and on a very personal level, I would like to be engaged by next year," she said.

Miss Mai Iskandar, an employee at the Arab Bank, has real ambitious dreams for a girl her age. She thinks of herself as a career woman, and wants to excel in everything she does.

She says, "I am not moody, and my feeling do not affect my productivity-unlike most women here." Her foremost day-to-day concern is walking in the streets and not being bot-

tered by everyone there. Mai likes bicycling, canoeing, hiking and reading. "Of course, I cannot do most of them here," she remarks. About women's status in Jordan, Mai feels that it is real "pathetic," she said. "Society restricts a woman here, many things that are acceptable to man are not so to a woman." As for Jordan, she feels that the country tries to take in all at innovations. "People buy more

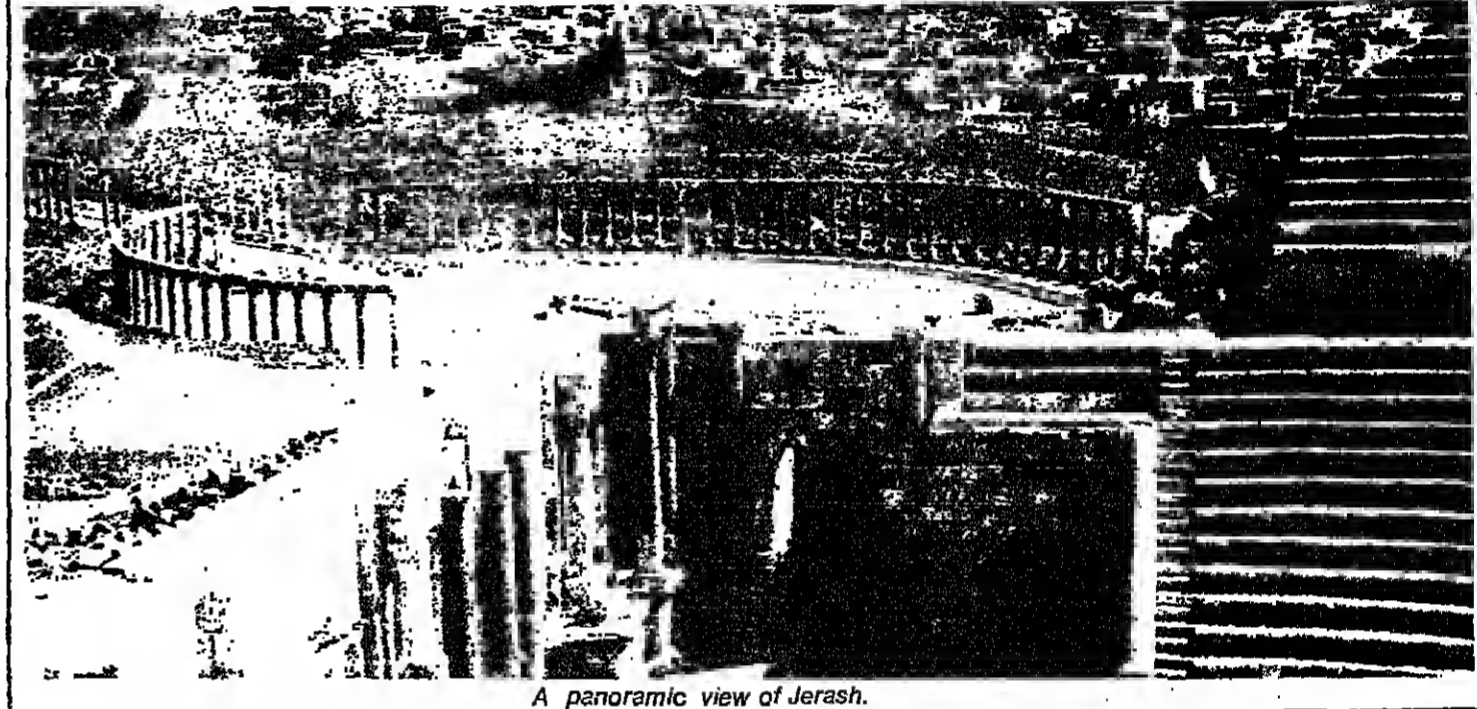
cars, videos, but the country cannot absorb all this growth at once," she said. However, she thinks that new ideas are not totally accepted. She said, "I hope that I would do something new."

For Miss Iman Ja'far, assistant researcher at the university of Jordan, nothing seems to be going well. "There are so many obstacles in life, and I cannot do

what I really want," she said. She also carries the same views about Jordan as many women do. "Women are not working themselves out in two channels," she says. "They are working all day, but inside and outside the house." She feels that Jordan has really developed in the past years, but people are still the same. "I wish that would be settled more next year, in my job and at home," she said.



A class in progress in Ajloun.



A panoramic view of Jerash.

Continued from page 6

year. This increase in the cost of services might reflect an increase in wages"

"There is a change in the structure of the components of the cost of living indices. Before 1980, the increase in the prices of fruits and vegetables was higher than in other categories. 1980 shows more stability in this category, which may reflect an increase in production.

"Whereas from the time that Jordan started to feel the impact of inflation, the leading categories had been fuel, fruits and vegetables; the latter category has stabilised but the cost of services is now on the increase.

The 1981-85 plan envisages fixed investments totalling JD 2,800 million in current prices. "The execution of such a substantial programme of investments might result in some bottlenecks. The major one could be manpower, depending on how the productivity of labour increases. It seems that there will be a substantial demand for the services of unskilled, semi-skilled and skilled expatriate labour. Unless a reasonable supply of labourers is maintained, serious bottlenecks will emerge and will hamper execution," Mr. Jardaneh said.

Productivity, measured as the ratio of GDP to the labour force, increased by about 2.5 per cent a year during the last plan. If it increases by about four per cent a year during 1981-85, Jordan will need up to 100,00 additional expatriate

labourers. If productivity goes up by six per cent, then the country will only need between fifty and sixty thousand expatriates, Mr. Jardaneh said, adding that it is reasonable to expect a four to six per cent increase "because we are going into capital intensive projects."

"The other main worry is that whereas the labour supply might be available, the government may not be able to recruit and maintain the necessary staff to provide reasonably efficient management for its investment programmes."

"In addition, exogenous factors, such as a substantial increase in oil prices and international inflation, might result in an increase in price levels so that the cost of programmes might become prohibitive and financial bottlenecks might emerge.

"One possible bottleneck in the case of smaller and medium sized construction projects is that it can cope with the volume of contracts that will be floated on the market. It is anticipated that the total volume of work that will go to local contractor in the next five years is about JD 700 million," Mr. Jardaneh concluded.

Continued from page 5

ision to proclaim him King and to change the status of the land to a kingdom.

The historic moment, when the Emir signed the document, triggered an unprecedented 101-gun salute from an army encampment on Citadel Hill. The children's voices rang out as one with the count of the guns: one, two, three ... one hundred, one hundred and one.


The Legislative House delegation returned to Jabal Amman, where the foreign minister at the time, the late Mohammad Al Shuraiqi, read the proclamation into the microphones which were installed for the occasion to pump the announcement to loudspeakers in all the town's streets.

At 10:30, the late Prince Abdull ilah, the Regent of Iraq, led a long procession of well-wishers to present congratulations to the King. Those included King Abdulah's two sons, prince Talal and Nayef, and official delegations from Egypt, Lebanon and Palestine, as well as the secretary general of the Arab League, Mr. Abdul Rahman Azzam.

On the occasion, the King received a copy of the proclamation, written in gold, from the Legislative Council. The Municipality of Amman presented the monarch with a copy of the Koran in a diamond-studded gold box.

At noon, the army staged a military parade at Amman airport and later that evening a gala dinner was given at the royal palace to which all the dignitaries were invited.

The celebrations were carried live by the Palestine Broadcasting Service and the Near East Broadcasting Station in Jaffe.



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MIDDLE EAST

Gulf Cooperation Council launched today

DHABI, May 24 (R) — of state of Saudi Arabia and Gulf states meet in Abu Dhabi tomorrow to launch the Cooperation Council, designed to boost unity and safeguard the region.

The council will deal with the central issues of peace and security in the Gulf, which has been rocked in the last years by the revolution in the Soviet intervention in Iran and the Iran-Iraq war.

Ministers from the six Arab states (Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Oman, Bahrain, U.A.E.) met today to try to narrow differences.

The diplomats said the discussions were too basic to be quickly and the council probably start with joint

action in non-controversial areas such as economic development, health and education.

The diplomats said the main obstacle to a common policy on defence was Oman's readiness to allow Western intervention in the Gulf and its demand for early action by the new council on formal defence arrangements between the members.

The other states reject any overt foreign presence in the Gulf for fear this would provoke the Soviet Union. They feel formal defence arrangements are out of the question while Oman gives military facilities to the United States.

Oman says it has no alternative while it faces a constant danger from the Soviet-backed government in neighbouring South Yemen.

Kuwait, the only member of the Cooperation Council to have dip-

lomatic relations with Moscow, wants the other Gulf states to establish links with the Soviet Union and persuade it to tone down its activities in South Yemen, the diplomats said.

This would also help Gulf states maintain a balance between the superpowers in an area which produces more than a quarter of the non-communist world's oil, they added.

But the diplomats said the other states, especially Saudi Arabia, had deep misgivings over how the Soviet Union might exploit such an opening into the region.

Despite underlying disagreements on Gulf defence, the six have already taken joint action to counter another major threat to their security, the missile crisis between Israel and Syria over Lebanon.

Yesterday's first round of for-

eign ministers' talks, held shortly after an emergency Arab League meeting on Lebanon, opened with a strong declaration of Gulf support for the governments of Lebanon and Syria in the confrontation with Israel.

Israel has threatened to destroy Syrian anti-aircraft missiles stationed in Lebanon after Israeli planes shot down two Syrian helicopters there last month. Syria has refused to withdraw the missiles.

Gulf diplomats said the Gulf states, which have some influence in Arab affairs because of their oil wealth, were combining support for Syria with a determination to re-establish the authority of the Lebanese government and work towards a long-term solution of its problems.

State-run Beirut Radio last night reported the revival of a

committee formed by an Arab summit in Saudi Arabia in 1976 which ended the 1975-76 Lebanese civil war.

The committee consists of representatives of Lebanon, Syria, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and the Arab League. The radio said it could help promote national accord in Lebanon.

Gulf diplomats said the six Gulf states were ready to accept a modest beginning for their Cooperation Council, partly because of disagreement on the security issue and partly because they did not want to appear to provoke regional powers such as Iran and Iraq, other Arab countries, or the superpowers.

Iran and Iraq were involved in past efforts to increase cooperation between states around the Gulf after Britain withdrew its troops from the area in 1971.

MIDDLE EAST BRIEFS

2 Soviet warships to visit S. Yemen

MOSCOW, May 24 (R) — Two Soviet warships will pay a six-day official visit to South Yemen this week, the official TASS news agency said today. TASS said the cruiser Alexander Suvrov and the destroyer Vozbuzhdyonny, under the command of Rear Admiral Mikhail Khronopulo, would stay at the port of Aden from May 26 to May 31.

Palestinian leaders protest housing Jews in Hebron

TEL AVIV, May 24 (R) — Palestinian leaders in the occupied West Bank protested to the United Nations today over the restoration of old buildings in the Arab town of Hebron to allow Jewish families to move in, Arab sources said. A meeting of town councillors and other civic leaders last night said two Jewish families had already moved into houses in the centre of Hebron, the sources said. A protest note was sent to U.N. Secretary-General Kurt Waldheim asking for his inter-

vention, they added. Houses currently being restored were once owned by Jewish families until the Jewish community left Hebron after clashes in 1929. Jewish ultra-nationalists have long been demanding government permission to regain control of the buildings despite international criticism of Jewish settlement in occupied Arab territories, especially in densely-populated Arab centres.

Greek Cypriot elections may undermine president's power

NICOSIA, May 24 (R) — Greek Cypriots were voting today in parliamentary elections which could undermine the position of President Spyros Kyprianou. A pre-election poll showed his centre-right Democratic Party trailing behind the Moscow-aligned Communist Party, Akel, and the right-wing Democratic Rally Party. Political observers believe the election will be a close-run fight between the pro-Western Democratic Rally and Akel. For the first time voting is compulsory. Failure to vote can result in a fine. Seven parties, represented by 252 candidates, are contesting

Plot to restore Iranian monarchy

IRAN, May 24 (R) — Authorities have arrested 18 in connection with an all-out bid aimed at restoring the monarchy, a military judge said yesterday.

Hammedi Gilani Reyshahri, military judge of the armed forces said a previously unheard of plot called Pars (Persia) had been discovered before it could be brought about the monarchy, he told in an interview.

"Their plan had been a bombing (campaign) to overthrow the Shah," he said. The group numbered between 250 and 300 people and were connected with former Prime Minister Shahpour Bakhtiar, the last premier appointed by the deposed Shah, and the late monarch's family.

The judge said the trial of those arrested would probably start in two weeks, but gave no details.

The judge linked the alleged plot to the abortive coup attempt

by air force officers uncovered last July, but said there were no members of the armed forces involved this time.

He said the group was aiming to prepare the ground for an attack by exiled opponents of the revolutionary government, adding that the plotters had support from bazaar merchants and "pseudo clergy" in the holy city of Qom.

A military judge is involved in the case as anti-state crimes in Iran are tried by armed forces revolutionary courts.

U.S. Muslim students meeting studies human rights

BLOOMINGTON, Indiana: "Human rights: an Islamic perception" is the theme of the 19th annual convention of the Muslim Students Association of the United States and Canada (M.S.A.), which opened May 22 at the Bloomington campus of Indiana University.

A spokesman for the students' association said, "we chose to concentrate on this theme in view of the recent hostage-taking situations and the discussions which have been prominent at the United Nations on the subject."

In a message of welcome to the

convention, Seyyid Muhammad Syeed, president of the association, noted: "Since Islam demands from every single believer to reject all kinds of exploitations of human rights and implementation of social and ethical justice, it is our obligation to clarify for ourselves and for others basic assumptions and obligations under human rights."

"In this convention," he added, "we are making an effort in this direction and hope to develop a programme of action for individual Muslims and communities for realisation of proper Islamic

social justice in the North American context."

Some 1500 Muslims had pre-registered for the May 22-25 conference, said to be the largest annual gathering of Muslims in North America for a decade and a half. However, at least 3,000 Muslims are expected to participate in the meeting before its conclusion.

The association has affiliated chapters throughout the North American continent and serves as a forum for formulating policies and coordinating events to advance the understanding of Islam.

The four-day conference will

feature sessions on such issues as Islamic approaches to the definition of human rights, colonialism as it relates to the Muslim community, ways to achieve unity of the Muslim community in North America, and human rights in the contemporary Muslim world community.

This year a special matter of business of the annual meeting will be the proposed establishment of an umbrella organisation called "the Islamic Society of North America."

The new group would serve to review the existing goals and ac-

tivities of the Muslim Students Association in an effort to enhance its responsiveness to changes that are taking place in the Muslim community in North America.

Guest speakers at the event include: Mr. Muhammad Qutb, professor of Islamic Law, Mecca; Mr. Muhammad Salahuddin, editor, Daily Jasarat, Karachi; Mr. Muhammad Hashir Faruqi, editor, Impact International, London; Sheikh Yusuf Al Gardawi, professor of Islamic Law, Doha, and Mr. Al Tayib Zeinalabbin, professor of political science and director, African Centre, Khartoum.

ABC TV to redo anti-Arab telecast

WASHINGTON: The major television network has agreed to take corrective action in a bid to repair the damage done by an anti-Arab TV programme last month bearing complaints from a number of Arab-American groups.

A news report said "The Unholy War" broadcast April 2 in ABC's "20/20" was anti-Arab and pro- and sparked a wave of protest from Arab-American groups and individuals. The programme focused on "Arab terrorism" and portrayed the Palestinian Liberation movement as a

puppet of the Soviet Union.

The Association of Arab-American University Graduates (AAUG) which arranged the meeting between "20/20" producers and representatives of the Arab community in the U.S. described the programme as perhaps the most destructive one on the Middle East ever shown on American television. AAUG President Khalil Nakhleh, along with representatives of the Palestine Congress of North America and the American Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee met April 29 with "20/20" executive producer Av. Weston and five other producers when the strong

Arab sentiments against the distorted TV feature were conveyed.

The meeting lasted one hour and 20 minutes at the end of which ABC committed itself to redoing the programme to rectify the distortions. It was agreed that ABC will include Arab-American criticism of the "Unholy War" in a new "prime time" TV programme called "Talk Back" taking into consideration the objections of the Arab-American community.

"We were also promised that some of these commitments will be acted upon within a period of 30 days," Mr. Nakhleh stated.

(Arab News)

Having flirted with the Russians

Numeiri now rallies neighbour countries into anti-Soviet bloc

EDITOR'S NOTE: Sudan celebrates today its Independence Day in commemoration of May 25, 1969 when President Jaafar Numeiri took over command of the country.



"Mr. Numeiri is ... the glue that molds the country together."

By Lisette Balouny

KHARTOUM: President Jaafar Numeiri of Sudan, who 12 years ago attached his hopes to the coattails of the Soviet Union, is turning to the West because he says the Soviets prey on poorer nations.

This about-face from the Soviets has been politically bumpy and sometimes even physically risky for the American-trained leader who took command of Africa's largest nation on May 25 of 1969.

He still faces problems stemming from an impoverished economy, rival political parties and a variety of neighbours ranging from democratic Kenya to radical Libya.

A tall muscular man, equally at ease in a military uniform, business suit or traditional robe, he has a ready smile, a firm handshake and a calm persuasive manner of speech.

But beneath it all is a tough combativeness and a sense of purpose which made him captain and leading scorer of his boyhood soccer team, and later an efficient, strong-minded military commander.

Mr. Numeiri 51, has three dreams: to make his country, a mosaic of varying cultures, traditions, and languages, a modern state with a sound economy. To stomp out

Soviet encroachment in the region of the Horn of Africa. To make the Sudan, which straddles the Arab and African worlds, an effective development juncture between those rich and poorer nations.

Like several other Third World leaders, Mr. Numeiri briefly flirted with Moscow. But it turned sour and he kicked out some 100 Soviet military advisers.

Now the graduate of the U.S. Command and Staff College of Fort Leavenworth Kansas supports American peace efforts in the Middle East with a little reservation has offered military facilities to the United States and is striving, through regional cooperation and development agreements, to rally neighbouring African countries into an anti-Soviet bloc.

"The Soviet Union is like a cancer trying to spread in Africa," he said recently arguing that African countries can counteract that only if they are economically sound. "The Soviet Union penetrates fields of poverty," he explains.

It is along this line that Sudan is trying to curtail the civil strife in neighbouring Ethiopia and Uganda and has engaged in regional political and economic agreements with Somalia, Kenya and Djibouti.

Kenya and Somalia too have offered military facilities to the United States. At home, Mr. Numeiri is delicately balancing political trends from conservative Muslim to pro-Moscow sympathisers, both factions have been brought into the central government in an effort to dissolve dissent, as have other political groups, at one time opposed to the president.

"Mr. Numeiri is the great balancer. It is second nature," said one seasoned Western diplomat "he is the glue that molds the country together. He is also working towards becoming a stabiliser for the region. He has learned a great deal from experience."

Critics of his regime say his domestic and foreign policy balancing manoeuvres are indeed vacillations. "He appears not to have any set line because of the varying political tendencies in the Sudan and the regimes around it," said one senior Sudanese official.

But the fact remains that in the

thirteen years before Mr. Numeiri took over the country has experienced ten changes of government varying from liberal democracy to military dictatorship. For much of that period it was locked in a north-south wasteful war.

Mr. Numeiri has weathered six coup attempts. The recurrence of unrest specially that of 1976 illustrates the force and determination of his enemies. But it also indicates the underlying strength of his regime because there have been no popular uprisings.

Coup conscious leaders would have tightened their political grip. But instead, he is striding ahead with regionalisation and decentralisation plans emphasising that although the regime may be backed by the military it does not have the trappings of a police state.

"It is a courageous gamble. He is sure-footed and his instincts usually are right," one Western observer noted, "but it can be dangerous."

Mr. Numeiri himself attributes his understanding of his people to the enormous amount of travelling he has done across the country, first as an officer posted in the four corners of the nation, and also as a president. "Despite all the warning I insist on regional government," he said in a speech. "My faith in the awareness of the masses is strong."

"The aim is to intensify local development, cooperation and integration between some regions," he urged "I am ready to fight for them even if it costs me my life."

It is this sense of commitment to get his country into gear that has earned Mr. Numeiri his popularity with the masses.

His simple lifestyle is also an asset. He lives in an ordinary army officer's house surrounded by other army officers, and despite recent health problems caused by a high blood pressure, -- for which he has been treated in the U.S. -- he still often plays soccer with young soldiers.

The son of a humble family -- his father was a messenger in a British firm -- Mr. Numeiri attended a British-style boarding school 100 miles from the capital.

He began his political activity as a teenager when he joined strikes protesting British foot-dragging in granting self determination to Sudan, and later as an officer, he planned for and led, the group of officers who launched the revolution. "Mr. Numeiri is the one, that all factions in the Sudan distrust the least," said one Western diplomat. "He sums up the national traits: generous, impulsive and fiercely independent."

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ECONOMY

Saudis may increase oil price if OPEC partners freeze theirs

GENEVA, May 24 (R) — Saudi Arabian Oil Minister Ahmad Zaki Yamani faced mounting pressure today to raise the price of Saudi oil at an OPEC meeting in Geneva.

The OPEC (Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries) pricing conference opens formally tomorrow but delegates said there might be acrimonious exchanges over Saudi price and production policies when the 13 ministers dined together tonight.

The Saudis, who produce 20 per cent of the non-communist world's oil, take a moderate line on pricing, charging \$32 for a barrel (42 U.S. gallons), the lowest rate in OPEC.

They have also been flooding the market with their cut-price oil, despite a recession-induced plunge in world demand, in order to get others to accept their thinking. Ministers arriving in Geneva said OPEC might agree to a price freeze.

But they added they would press for production cuts to end the Saudi-engineered glut. The Iraqi Minister, Tayeb Abdul-Karim, said he hoped that in return for a price freeze by others the Saudis would agree to raise their price.

Sheikh Yamani usually raises the Saudi price by two dollars at a

time. Market analysts said a two-dollar Saudi increase now would have only a minor effect on petrol prices.

It would raise the average OPEC price from just over \$35 to about \$36 a barrel. A decade ago it was under two dollars.

Delegates said the deal favoured by middle-of-the-roadsers for a freeze in return for a Saudi price rise and output cut had to be sold both to the Saudis and to pricing militants led by Libya.

The Kuwaiti Minister, Ali Khalifa Al Sabah, said he expected there would be some "hot air" generated over the way the Saudis had kept their output at a near-record level of above 10 million barrels a day (b/d). He also conceded that OPEC might fail to reach any accord in Geneva. But this would be "no catastrophe. OPEC will not disintegrate," the Kuwaiti minister said.

The Saudi goal is to unify OPEC prices as a prelude to introducing a new formula indexing them to inflation and the West's economic growth. The Saudis say this would spare world economies price shocks like the 17½ per cent increase since early 1979.

While the Saudis charge \$32 a barrel and regard a 36-dollar base price used by the others as too

high, the others are adamant they will not cut rates.

Delegates said the compromise now being mooted, as a step towards final pricing unity in September or December, would in effect freeze—in the sense of prolonging—a deal struck at OPEC's last meeting, held in Bali, Indonesia, in December.

In deference to the Saudis, that accord set the official base price at \$32 but left members, including Saudi Arabia, free to align their prices on a base anywhere up to \$36, with differentials added for quality.

While oil analysts expect that Sheikh Yamani could raise his price by two dollars a barrel in any compromise, the Indonesian Oil Minister, Dr. Subroto, told reporters today that he hoped Saudi Arabia would boost its tariff to \$36 in return for a freeze by the others.

Dr. Subroto said: "We suggest that if we freeze prices then everyone will adjust their price to \$36."

The analysts believed a long enough freeze by the others at \$36 would be acceptable to the Saudis because inflation would erode its real value.

The United Arab Emirates Minister, Mana Said Al Oteiba,

said he was sure there would be a price freeze in Geneva.

Asked if an accord could also involve Saudi Arabia moving closer to the 36-dollar mark, he said: "We have to work very hard to narrow the gap between the various prices."

He was also asked if OPEC might trim the glut in the market by reintroducing a plan agreed secretly in Vienna last September under which the producers pledged to try to cut output by 10 per cent. "Maybe something on those lines," he answered.

But when he was asked if the Saudis would join in cutting back he said: "I am speaking generally."

OPEC's price "hawks", led by Libya, are angry that Saudi Arabia has kept its production at near-record levels.

Libyan Oil Minister Abdulsalam Zegaar told Reuters last night that he might agree to freeze Libya's \$41 price, the highest in OPEC, although he indicated this would hinge on production cuts by the exporters.

Asked if he expected the Geneva meeting to result in production cuts, he replied: "I hope so." Asked if he would freeze Libya's price, he said: "That depends."

ECONOMIC NEWS BRIEFS

WHO says: Tune out TV dinners

GENEVA, May 24 (R) — The World Health Organisation (WHO) ended its annual assembly here with an appeal from its president for action against instant foods such as television dinners.

"These instant foods are often eaten in front of the television, an office desk or factory table, often hurriedly," Assembly President Dr. Meropi Violaki-Panaskeva of Greece said. The family was deprived of an occasion to talk, she added.

Ready-made meals and the decline in breast-feeding for infants were two products of development and industrialisation which could have had effects, she said.

"There must be some way to promote health education in regard to wholesome nutrition and good eating habits," she told delegates.

The 156-state assembly yesterday approved a voluntary international code to control marketing of mother's milk substitutes, including a ban on advertising.

China opts for piece-rate wage system

PEKING, May 24 (R) — China plans to begin paying factory workers according to their output in all plants where it is possible to do so, the director of the state labour bureau said yesterday.

Kang Yonghe said in the trade union newspaper Workers Daily that the system of piece-rate wages, until now practised mainly in jobs such as loading and unloading, had proved effective in raising productivity and increasing profits.

Mr. Kang said reforms in the countryside giving individual peasant families greater independence in what they grow had resulted in increased production. However, in the cities the question of linking reward to output was far from solved.

A system of bonuses introduced in the last two years had to some extent boosted production and improved management, but it was only a partial success, he added.

Mr. Kang said it was impossible to change the entire wage system at present because the country was in the midst of a highly complex programme to implement severe economic cutbacks, but some changes were necessary and possible.

Greece pumping its own oil

KAVALA, Greece, May 24 (R) — Greece began producing oil and natural gas today from a basin estimated to total nine million tonnes and given a life of about 15 years.

Minister of Industry and Energy Stefanos Manos said today the oil field, known as Prinos, will provide about 13 per cent of Greece's annual requirements, now put at 10.5 million tonnes.

A consortium of four foreign companies holds the concession off the north Aegean island of Thasos.

The oil field will help alleviate the country's balance of payments deficit, made worse in recent years by the heavy oil import bill which this year is expected to exceed \$3 billion.

President Constantine Karamanlis and other officials attended the ceremony at the oil field in the northern Greek city of Kavala.

After today's token pumping of oil and natural gas, normal pumping of oil will start early in June, Mr. Manos said.

U.S. consumer prices up 0.4%

WASHINGTON, May 24 (R) — U.S. consumer prices rose at an annual rate of only 0.1 per cent in April, the lowest increase since last July, the labour department said.

Declining petrol prices and stable food costs helped to hold the overall increase to only 0.4 per cent in April.

The U.S. has made steady progress in controlling inflation over the past few months, largely because food prices have been relatively stable.

Inflation fell from an annual rate of 7.5 per cent in March, partly due to petrol prices dropping by 1.4 per cent in April. Earlier this year, petrol became dearer after President Reagan ended controls over domestic crude petroleum prices.

Not all of the inflation news was encouraging. Housing costs, pushed up by rising mortgage interest rates, grew 0.7 per cent in April, while medical costs rose by 0.9 per cent.

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مكتبة الجليل

WORLD

Overnight rioting in Belfast; police car runs amok, kills 1 as IRA funeral rifles seized

BELFAST, May 24 (R) — A man was killed during bitter overnight rioting in Belfast, the 17th victim in a wave of

The first to die in a campaign by jailed Republican guerrillas for political prisoner status was Bobby Sands on May 5. Since then three more have starved themselves to death and the outlawed Irish Republican Army (IRA) has promised to keep four volunteers fasting permanently until their demands are met.

Police say the latest victim of rioting, a 35-year-old man, was struck by an armoured police Landrover during street clashes north of the city centre.

The Landrover had been stoned by angry crowds seconds before it hit the man and was believed to have run out of control.

Another rioter set himself on fire when a petrol bomb he was about to toss at police caught alight. He was rushed to hospital to be treated for burns and police were waiting to question him.

The British security forces fired plastic anti-riot bullets to drive back crowds which attacked a joint police-military fort for the fourth night in a row.

Cars and lorries were hijacked to put up barricades and a Saracen armoured car crashed into a wall and came under a barrage of petrol bombs. The British troops inside managed to escape without serious injury.

Patsy O'Hara, the fourth hunger striker to die, will be buried in his hometown of Londonderry tomorrow. His place has been taken by a new volunteer, Kevin Lynch, a fellow member of the small ultra left-wing Irish National Liberation Army (INLA).

violence after the deaths of four Irish guerrillas on hungerstrike in a Northern Ireland jail.

Meanwhile, British soldiers have recovered in the IRA stronghold of South Armagh three rifles used by masked IRA men to fire volleys over the coffin of hunger-striker Raymond McCreesh, the army reported.

The rifles, ammunition and black gloves -- part of the Irish Republican Army's military uniform -- were recovered last night from a "hide" in Camlough, McCreesh's South Armagh hometown, near where five British soldiers were killed in an IRA landmine ambush last Tuesday, an army spokesman said.

An army spokesman said the IRA rifles were recovered by soldiers of the Royal Green Jackets Regiment, whose comrades were killed in South Armagh last week.

The army declined further details, but said the weapons were seized after "careful observation during the Saturday afternoon IRA military funeral for McCreesh."

Security forces kept a low profile as some 25,000 mourners poured into Camlough for the funeral and -- as usual -- made no move when the IRA gunmen emerged to fire the traditional IRA salute to a fallen hero.

The men were shielded by women holding umbrellas to hide them from two army helicopters clattering overhead, and melted back into the crowd.

Carrying arms and wearing military uniforms is illegal, but security forces have done nothing at any of the previous IRA military funerals, apparently wanting to avoid provocation.

John Silkin challenges Tony Benn

LONDON, May 24 (R) — The power struggle in Britain's opposition Labour Party has intensified when former agriculture minister John Silkin announced he would challenge Mr. Tony Benn to replace Mr. Dennis Healey as deputy party leader.

Mr. Silkin, although also on the left wing of the party, is viewed as more moderate than Mr. Benn, whose bid for the deputy leadership has deepened the party's right-left divisions.

Political sources said Mr. Silkin's move would split the left wing when the party votes for a deputy leader in the autumn.

Under reforms since the party lost the last general election to the Conservatives in 1979, voting power for leadership has been divided: trade unions 40 per cent, Labour parliamentarians 30 per cent and rank and file workers 30 per cent.

This and other moves to the left encouraged 13 Labour parliamentarians to split from the party this year and form a breakaway Social Democratic Party on protest.

Announcing his candidature, Mr. Silkin said Britain's biggest problem was unemployment and that he backed increased public investment, import controls and withdrawal from the European Common Market (EEC).

Reagan's assailant on legal manoeuvres

WASHINGTON, May 24 (Agencies) — Lawyers for John W. Hinckley Jr., who is charged with attempting to assassinate U.S. President Ronald Reagan, have offered a guilty plea in the case if the government would recommend he be sentenced as a juvenile, it was learned yesterday.

One Justice Department source, who declined to be identified, said that no such proposal had reached Attorney General William French Smith for a decision, but it was learned that the Justice Department would accept the plea bargain or any one like it.

Under the proposed arrangement, Mr. Hinckley would plead guilty to some charge or charges in the case. In return, his lawyers wanted the government to agree to recommend to the judge that Mr. Hinckley be sentenced under the U.S. Youth Corrections Act, which is designed to substitute rehabilitation for simple imprisonment.

Next Friday, Mr. Hinckley reaches his 26th birthday, after which he would no longer qualify for the special sentencing provisions of the act.

The law, which governs sentencing of defendants younger than 21, gives federal judges broad discretion in sentencing convicted adults between the ages of 21 and 26. Judges may grant probation or they may impose an indeterminate sentence of six years while the defendant receives treatment.

If an offender is not rehabilitated within six years, he or she would be ordered confined up to the maximum of the adult sentence. In Mr. Hinckley's case, that would be life if he were to plead guilty to attempting to assassinate Mr. Reagan.

Under the act, a convicted person can be released at any time if corrections authorities decide that defendant's anti-social tendencies have been corrected and he or she no longer poses a threat.

Mr. Hinckley is being defended by the firm of prominent Washington criminal lawyer Edward Bennett Williams. That firm has

offered similar plea bargains in previous cases, said legal sources who declined to be identified by name.

Mr. Hinckley, from Colorado Springs, Colorado, was arrested shortly after a gunman fired several 22-calibre gunshots outside the Washington Hilton Hotel on March 30, injuring Mr. Reagan, his Press Secretary James Brady and two law enforcement officers.

Since April, Mr. Hinckley has been held at the federal correctional centre in Bumer, North Carolina, for psychiatric tests by government and defence experts. A defence request for psychiatric tests apparently was based on the possibility of raising an insanity or mental impairment plea on Mr. Hinckley's behalf.

If convicted, Mr. Hinckley could be sentenced to life in prison for the attack on Mr. Reagan and to 10 years and \$10,000 for the wounding of Secret Service Agent Timothy McCarthy.

Meanwhile in Santa Barbara, President Reagan, recovering from a bullet wound suffered in the assassination attempt, went horseback riding and chopped wood today at his mountain-top ranch overlooking the Pacific.

The White House said the 70-year-old president still faced a period of recuperation but had been told by his physician, Dr. Daniel Ruge, that he could perform whatever activities he desired.

The president, accompanied by his wife Nancy, is at the ranch for a four-day break, his first there since Feb. 19, some six weeks before he was shot in the left lung.

Mr. Speakes said \$750,000 was being spent on security, housing for aides and medical facilities, and for communications to help the president, who is also commander-in-chief of the armed forces, carry out his responsibilities.

He said Mr. Reagan had decreed that no government money be spent on the ranchhouse and nothing more than necessary on support equipment and staff buildings.

He said one helicopter was kept at the ranch for emergencies.

SPORTS ROUNDUP

Benitez "Treble" champion

LAS VEGAS, May 24 (A.P.) — Wilfred Benitez knocked out reigning champion Maurice Hope of Britain in the 12th round of the World Boxing Council (WBC) light-middleweight title. The victory made the 22-year-old Puerto Rican the first boxer in 43 years, since Henry Armstrong, to win world championship in three separate weight divisions. Hope, horn in Anrigua hut a resident of Britain for 2 years, went down after one minute 56 seconds of the 12th round when Benitez hit him with a right to the jaw. Except for an occasional head twitch, he did not move for a full minute. Fight physicians finally revived the 29-year-old Briton and he was taken to a local hospital for observation. Dr. Donald Romeo said Hope's speech was slurred, but further details of his condition were not yet known. Benitez became the youngest champion ever when he won the WBC junior welterweight title in 1976 at the age of 19. He won the WBC welterweight championship in January 1977 from Carlos Palomino and lost it to Sugar Ray Leonard 10 months later. Benitez dominated the scheduled 15-round fight from the fifth round onwards, scoring heavily with lefts to the ribs or Hope's right side. Benitez floored Hope with a right to the body late in the 10th round, but it was in the sixth that he appeared to take control after jarring Hope with a right to the head. A right-left-right combination to the head backed the champion to the ropes. He was hurt and in trouble. It was a feigned left to the right that set up Benitez's thunderous knockout punch in the 12th. Benitez, who was a heavy favourite coming into the bout despite being the challenger, suffered two cuts -- on his right eyelid in the fourth and one to his left eye in the ninth.

Nuerburgring claims another victim

NUERBURGRING, West Germany, May 24 (R) — Swiss driver Herbert Mueller was killed today when his car crashed on the Nuerburgring race track during the annual 1,000 kilometre sports car race, the organisers said. Mueller's German Porsche 908 car was involved in a five-car crash and burst into flames. The organisers said that although four special cars with fire extinguishing equipment reached the scene almost immediately, the drivers were unable to save the 41-year-old Mueller. Formula One drivers have boycotted the Nuerburgring since 1976, when Austria ex-world Formula One champion Niki Lauda was critically injured in a crash. They said the sheer size of the circuit -- 22 kilometres made it impossible for effective safety measures to be applied along its entire length. Since then, the German Grand Prix has been staged at the smaller Hockenheim track, near Heilbronn. The Nuerburgring organisers are now awaiting a government decision to provide \$35 million to build a new circuit suitable for Grand Prix racing, using 4.5 kms of the old track.

Cool Clerc wins Italian Tennis Open

ROME, May 24 (A.P.) — Jose-Luis Clerc of Argentina defeated Victor Pecci of Paraguay 6-3, 6-4, 6-0 today to win the \$200,000 Italian Tennis Open. Pecci had upset top-seeded Guillermo Vilas in a semifinal but proved no match against the cool, steady playing of Clerc at the Foro Italic. Clerc, seeded third, reeled off eight straight games in the second and third sets, keeping Pecci at bay from the back court.

Meanwhile at the Berlin Grand Prix Tennis Tournament, Czechoslovakia's Regina Marsikova clearly mastered Argentina's Ivann Madruga 6-2, 6-1 today to take the title and \$100,000. The 22-year-old Czech, listed 19th in world rankings, needed only 61 minutes to finish off her opponent before 1,500 spectators. She had advanced to the Finals after downing Australia's Diana Fromholtz 6-3, 6-0 and without losing a set in the tournament. The 20-year-old Blonde Madruga, clearly the favourite of the fans, defeated Sandy Collins of the United States 6-2, 6-2 yesterday to make the final game. Madruga, 23rd in world ranking, also had advanced to the finals without a loss.

Soviets win beyond expectations

ROME, May 24 (R) — The Soviet Union today achieved its predicted victory in the men's European Gymnastics Championship, but the winning margin exceeded even its own expectations. Soviet gymnasts filled the first three places, with team leader Alexander Tkachev crowning his ambitions with the gold medal. Second in the European Tournament in Essen two years ago, third in the World Championships and fourth in last year's Olympics, Tkachev had always just missed victory. But aided by the absence of Bulgaria's reigning champion Stojan Deltchev, the 24-year-old Russian looked a winner all the way yesterday. Second and third places gained by his young team-mates Yuri Korolev and Bogdan Makuz showed the strength in depth of Soviet gymnastics. East Germany's Roland Bruckner provided the only serious challenge to the Soviet team. Western Europe, which provided most of the 24 teams taking part, was represented only by West Germany, with Michael Nikolay finishing fifth and 30-year-old Eberhard Gienger seventh.

Juventus, Italian champions yet again

ROME, May 24 (R) — Juventus of Turin won the Italian First Division Championship for the 19th time today when they beat Fiorentina 1-0 in the final match of the season. O Roma, the only team still challenging for the title, drew their away match at Avellino 1-1 to end the season two points behind Juventus. Meanwhile in Lahti, W. Germany beat Finland 4-0 in their World Cup Soccer European group one qualifying match today to lead group one. Finland remains last in the group with no points.

Hanoi accuses Peking of border incursions

HONG KONG, May 24 (R) — Vietnam has accused Chinese troops of crossing into its border provinces to lay mines and ambush border guards.

The Vietnam News Agency (VNA), monitored here, said China, while continuing its artillery bombardment of Vietnam's northern provinces had sent hundreds of scouts across the border disguised as civilians.

In Ha Tuyen Province, Chinese scouts intruded into the Dong Van and Yen Minh districts to lay mines and ambush its border guards. Three Vietnamese civilians

were killed in the action and two wounded, it said.

Earlier a Chinese battalion also occupied a hill in Vi Xuyen district under artillery cover, VNA said, adding that Vietnamese armed forces and people had fought back.

Both Peking and Hanoi have reported armed border clashes in recent weeks and traded charges and counter-charges. China said earlier today its forces had killed 85 Vietnamese troops which intruded into its Yunnan Province on Friday.

Indian lady bandit gunned down

NEW DELHI, May 24 (A.P.) — Dreaded lady bandit Meera Thakur, five male members of her gang and 4 policemen were reported killed today in a six-hour blazing shootout in the Jammu ravines of northern India.

Several other bandits, armed with semi-automatic weapons, escaped a police dragnet in the rugged heavily-wooded region located 380 kilometres southeast of the Indian capital, the United News of India (UNI) reported.

The agency quoted local officials as saying that the bandits, camping in the village of Dharana, traded shots with a police patrol. After their leader, Meera Thakur, and five other associates were gunned down, the brigands fled the shootout, leaving behind some arms.

Lawmen in the region have since last February been combing the narrow winding gorges and forests of the region for 25-year-old Phoola Devi, known as India's "Bandit Queen."

The woman, described by newspapers as a sadist who likes to see members of her all-male gang rape women before her eyes, reportedly ordered the slaying on St. Valentine's Day of 22 villages she believed gave shelter to her lover's killers.

WORLD NEWS BRIEFS

Faulty insulation in U.S. nuclear plant

ATHENS, Alabama, May 24 (R) — Investigators have found the cause of a leak of radioactive water that led to one of three reactors at the largest U.S. commercial nuclear power plant being shut down yesterday, company officials said. A spokesman for the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA), operators of the Browns Ferry plant, said a five-man team wearing protective clothing was repairing the leak and the company expected the reactor to be operating again tomorrow. The leak was traced to faulty insulation lining a control valve around a 66-cm diameter pipe that circulates water through one of the plant's three reactors, the spokesman said. "Such valve leaks are relatively common in generating plants but not within the dry well area of a nuclear power plant and that was the reason we shut down the reactor," the spokesman added.

Strike-weary truck drivers retaliate

DOVER, May 24 (A.P.) — A 14-hour blockade of this English channel port by truck drivers, mainly French and Italian, fed up with strikes by British customs officers was lifted early this morning after hundreds of vacationers spent the night trapped in the port area. The truck drivers, including several Britons, parked their vehicles across Dover's seven car and freight berths last night in protest at continual delays to freight traffic caused by 11 weeks of sporadic pay strikes by British civil servants. A backlog of several hundred cars built up at the port, while other vacationers and their cars spent the night trapped aboard incoming ferries. "The atmosphere is all right now," a spokesman for the Dover Port Authority said this morning after persuading the truck drivers to move their vehicles away from the berths. Truck drivers' tempers boiled over after customs officers on yesterday's early evening shift stopped work. The morning shift reported normally. British airports and ports are among government facilities hit continually in the 11 weeks of rolling pay strikes by the country's 530,000 bureaucrats. The Conservative Party government is adamant it will not increase its seven per cent pay offer.

Chinese leader hails Indo-Sino ties

PEKING, May 24 (A.P.) — A leading Chinese official has said developing China-India friendship "is of great importance to safeguarding world peace and opposing hegemonism," the official Xinhua news agency reported. Xinhua said Peng Cheng mei with a delegation of the India-China Friendship Association, led by its president, China uses hegemonism to mean the Soviet Union, a country with which India is on friendly terms. Meanwhile, China and India still have a dispute regarding 41,000 square kilometres of land that China occupied during a brief but bloody border war in 1962. Mr. Peng is a vice-chairman of the standing committee of the National People's Congress and a member of the Communist Party secretariat. Xinhua said he told the delegation the two nations, both have suffered foreign aggression and having past similar experience, share common beliefs. Therefore, "there is no reason why they should not build friendship between them."

Novel way to demand prison reforms

CARSON CITY, Nevada, May 24 (R) — An armed prisoner held three guards hostage and freed 50 dangerous convicts in the Nevada State Prison before police stormed the block and restored order, prison officials said. The prisoner, David Wayne, 37, serving a 20-year sentence for attempted murder, demanded better conditions in the prison. During night-long negotiations, prison officials allowed Wayne's girl friend, Terry Nason, to visit him. Officials at the maximum security prison did not know how the inmate had got hold of the gun which he used to take the guards hostage and release 50 prisoners.

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